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AMERICAN NATIONAL LIVE STOCK ASSOCIATION

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DENVER—

The Feeder Cattle Market

DENVER has built up its favorable reputation as a market very largely through the increasing numbers of feeder cattle and calves it has been able to handle in years past.

The Denver Market has taken care of the fat cattle offered for this season in very good shape, as compared to any other market. Now the feeder shipping season is on, and, as usual, it is expected that Denver will offer the best outlet for feeder cattle during the next three months.

The western grower can more readily reach the Denver Market than any other market with his cattle, and he can expect to dispose of them there as advantageously this year as any other year, in comparison to other markets.

The feeding sections to the north and east of Denver have splendid crops this year and will furnish a demand at Denver for many thousands of feeder cattle.

By marketing at Denver—

YOU SAVE SHRINK,
YOU SAVE FEED,
YOU SAVE FREIGHT,
YOU SAVE TIME.

You may not know that the Denver Union Stock Yard Company reduced its yardage rates on carloads of cattle, calves, and sheep, effective August 22, 1932, as follows:

Cattle, Standard-Gauge Carload Maximum	$10.00
Calves, Standard-Gauge Carload Maximum	12.00
Sheep and Lambs, Standard-Gauge Single-Deck Carload Maximum	10.00
Sheep and Lambs, Standard-Gauge Double-Deck Carload Maximum	20.00

Ship 'Em to DENVER

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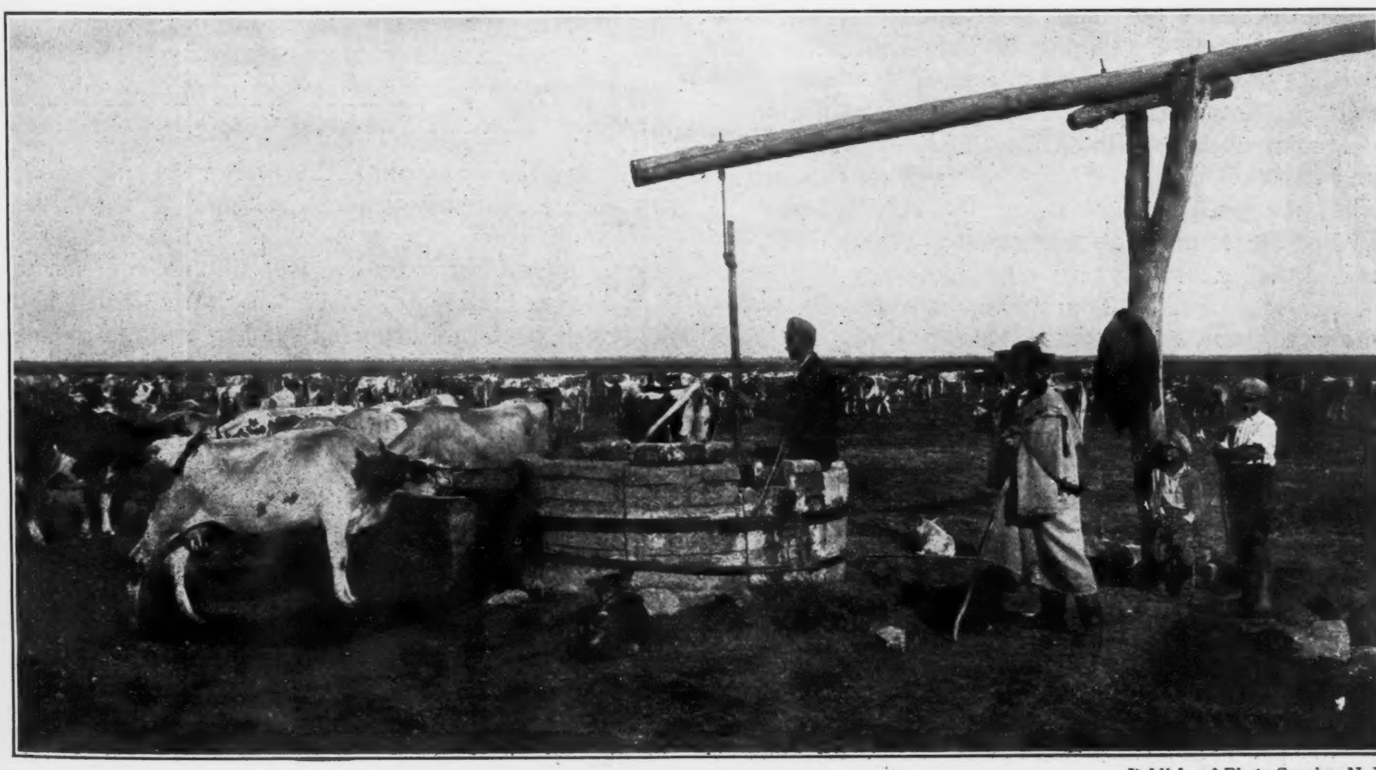
The European Fat Situation

BY HERBERT ARNOIS
Hamburg, Germany

[*Concluded from September number*]

IN ORDER TO GET AN IDEA OF THE RELATIVE importance of American fat exports to Europe, let us take a look at Germany's (net) imports and home production of the leading rendered fats, which, too, are fairly representative of most of the countries of northern Europe. The subjoined table, under "vegetable oils," shows imports of oleaginous fruits, reduced to their oil contents. Figures on home production are estimates (in millions of pounds):



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CATTLE GRAZING ON GREAT PLAIN OF HUNGARY

	1931	1913	Gain or Loss
Butter—			
Imports	221	120	Gain 151
Home production	790	740	
Lard—			
Imports	183	236	Loss 9
Home production	396	352	
Beef fats—			
Imports	56	162	Loss 96
Home production	150	140	
Fish oils—			
Imports	351	111	Gain 240
Vegetable oils—			
Imports	1,297	1,101	Gain 196

The salient facts to be noted are these:

1. Consumption of butter in Germany has increased considerably. This is also the case in England, whereas Denmark and the Netherlands—the two largest butter-exporting countries in Europe—are eating less butter than before the war.

2. The demand for lard is remarkably stable, in good times and bad. Imports mount and fall inversely with the increase or decrease of home production.

3. Imports of beef fats have suffered a spectacular drop, for both edible and technical purposes; their place in the churn and the soap-kettle being taken by vegetable and fish oils.

4. These latter oils not only have replaced oleo and tallow in large measure, but, together with butter, have supplied the growing demand for fats.

Vegetable and Fish Oils

Practically all the vegetable and fish (or marine) oils consumed by Germany and the countries of northern Europe are imported. With the exception of soybeans, which come from Manchuria, all vegetable oils originate in the tropics, and are not so much the product of human labor as of a kindly climate. Peanuts are imported from India, China, and Africa; coconuts, from the Dutch East Indies; palm kernels and palm oil, from Africa; linseed, from the Argentine. Cottonseed is without importance since the United States put a duty on oriental oils, and thereby raised the price of its native product.

Imports of fish oils are practically identical with those of whale oil, other classes being of little moment. The main hunting-ground for whales is the Antarctic Ocean. Two-thirds of the catch is accounted for by Norwegian whalers. Production has been increased so enormously that the 1931 output of 1,375,000,000 pounds ran ahead of consumption and caused the leading interests (Unilever and Procter & Gamble) to announce that they would not buy a single drop of whale oil from the Norwegians during the coming season. At the time of writing, however, it looks as though part of the Norwegian whaling fleet would set sail just the same.

The gains scored by vegetable and fish oils all over Europe are due to their cheapness; to improved refining methods, making it possible to produce an oil which is neutral in flavor; and to the hydrogenating process, which permits the "hardening" of liquid oils. The writer, however, doubts that these oils will ever attain the standing of lard or oleo, as the long refining process removes, not only all undesirable taste, odor, and color, but also some of the inherent virtues of the oils.

Vegetable and fish oils are used for both edible and technical purposes, and, with the improved technique, may be interchanged for one another to a large extent. Take, for instance, linseed oil, which heretofore has been considered a technical oil, but which now, after being hardened, is used liberally in the margarine churn. On the other hand, a greater percentage of coconut oil, once regarded as the chief ingredient in the manufacture of butter substitutes, is today employed for technical ends than was the case ten years ago. It would, therefore, be next to impossible to estimate, with any degree of accuracy, the proportion entering into human consumption, but for the fact that, contrary to the American practice, these oils are seldom used in their original state, but are first converted into margarine. On an average, 90 per cent of the raw materials going into margarine consist of vegetable and fish oils.

Competition of Margarine

A glance at the raw materials used by Germany in 1913 and 1928 in making butterine reveals the evolution of this industry. Quantities (in pounds) and percentages of total volume for the two years were as below:

	1913	1928	1913	1928
Animal fats	198,000,000	50,000,000	53%	6%
Vegetable oils	176,000,000	697,000,000	47%	78%
Fish oils	....	142,000,000	....	16%
Totals	374,000,000	889,000,000	100%	100%

Before the war, animal fats were used extensively, not only in the top grades, but also in the lower-priced qualities. On account of the cheapness of vegetable and fish oils, the use of oleo and neutral lard is now limited to the better kinds, while South American beef fats are used for the medium grades. The tremendous increase in the use of vegetable and fish oils is not exclusively due to the lower price, but has been accentuated by the preference given them by Unilever. One of the reasons for this has been alluded to in the previous instalment of this article. Another reason is the fact that "the Trust" owns the largest oil-mills and hardening plants, and is, besides, interested in coconut and palm-tree plantations. The difference between the attitude of Unilever, on the one hand, and that of the independent manufacturers, on the other, is illustrated by the percentage of animal fats in the total ingredients going into the churn. In 1928 this percentage was 2.4 in the German factories belonging to "the Trust," and 11 in those of

the independents. In the other European countries the same condition prevails. By substituting the words "vegetable and fish oils" for the word "margarine" in the following table, a fairly accurate idea may be gained of the relative importance of the various kinds of fats:

PER-CAPITA CONSUMPTION OF FATS*
(In Pounds)

	Butter	Margarine	Lard Comp.	Lard
Germany	16.7	15.4	1.7	9.2
United Kingdom	18.0	15.1	..	6.6
Netherlands	12.3	20.9	..	..
Denmark	12.3	49.3	..	..
United States	19.8	1.9	11.0	15.0

*Most of these figures are taken from government statistics, some of them dating back a few years.

Unique is the position of Denmark—the world's largest butter-exporter. The Danish farmer delivers his milk to the co-operative dairy, and then goes home and eats margarine. Exports of Danish butter in 1930 amounted to 374,000,000 pounds, or 110 pounds for each inhabitant!

As it may be interesting to know the relative valuations of various fats in other countries, German retail prices as of June 22, 1932, are quoted herewith (cents per pound):

Best dairy butter	30
Country butter	25
Margarine, super-grade	18½
Margarine, good	15
Margarine, medium	12
Margarine, cheapest	7½
American refined lard	9½
Vegetable shortening, leading brand	7½
Vegetable shortening, average quality	6

There is no retail price on oleo oil, as it is not sold to consumers, but to bakers. The price to the latter would correspond to a retail price of 9 to 10 cents.

From this it would seem that the European housewives—thrifty by necessity—are willing to pay a higher premium for animal fats over vegetable fats than their American sisters, being satisfied that they are getting their money's worth in the way of high quality.

"Dutch Lard" Made from White Grease

A word remains to be said about the competition of the so-called "Dutch lard," made from white grease, which at times has been exceedingly keen. American white grease is the product of scraps from packing plants, and of hogs which have been condemned, or have died in transit or from disease. No part or derivative of such hogs may be sold in the United States for food purposes. In order to protect consumers, both at home and abroad, this article is denatured with kerosene or a similar agent, and the barrels containing it are plainly branded "inedible." White grease has certain legitimate industrial uses. However, some Dutch manufacturers subject it to a refining process, blend it with edible lard, and export it in boxes closely patterned after those used for American lard, with an English legend stating it to be "pure refined lard," and, at least in one instance, under a genuine American trademark.

By the man in the street this practice will, to say the least, be considered far from appetizing. Also, its sanitary aspects are open to question. Besides, such substitute can be sold at a lower price than the genuine article, whether of American or of Dutch origin, and does further harm if the quality gives reason for complaint. Not only housewives, but most dealers, are utterly unaware that they have to do with a substitute, and, in case of dissatisfaction, are liable to lay the blame at the door of lard as such, turning eventually to some other kind of fat.

According to a well-informed source, the importation of white grease into the Netherlands has reached the high aggregate of 30,000,000 to 40,000,000 pounds annually in favorable years. At present it runs far below this figure, as the spread between lard and white grease has narrowed since the former has become so exceptionally cheap. Holland's export statistics quite naturally do not make any distinction between regular lard and this so-called "Dutch lard." In 1931 her lard exports totaled 60,000,000 pounds, of which 17,800,000 went to Czechoslovakia, 6,600,000 to Germany, 5,900,000 to the United Kingdom, and 5,200,000 to Belgium.

Conclusion

Of American fats exported to Europe, only bacon, oleo, and lard are of importance. Bacon shipments have shrunk to a fraction of their pre-war volume, owing to the keen competition offered by certain continental surplus-producing countries, notably Denmark and the Netherlands, and increased hog supplies in importing countries. Oleo exports, likewise, have suffered greatly from the cheaper prices of vegetable and fish oils, particularly since the latter two oils are given preference by Unilever, despite the superior quality of oleo. Imports of American lard have increased in England and Czechoslovakia, but have declined in Germany and Belgium, not only on account of the cheaper Danish and Dutch lard (real and so-called), but also because of greatly augmented margarine consumption.

There are signs of a let-up in both of these lines of competition. The hog cycle in Germany and Holland is on its downward leg, and Denmark is expected to follow suit. Margarine consumption in several countries also is exhibiting a downward trend. Private estimates reveal a decline in Germany of approximately 10 per cent from the apex of 1929. Belgian consumption has fallen off from 11.8 pounds per capita in 1929 to 8.8 pounds in 1930.

On the other hand, the latter-day national tendency of each one for himself has been emphasized by the scarcity of foreign currency. Germany, Austria, Czechoslovakia, and Denmark have introduced quota systems, either for the control of the importation of certain articles or for the restriction of the amount of currency allotted to importers. England—in the past the stronghold of free trade—not only has put duties on a large number of manufactured articles, but at the Ottawa conference, now in session, will consider the question of according preferential tariff treatment to members of the British Empire.

In view of the complexity of the problems involved, the writer does not feel qualified to venture a forecast as to future developments. Instead, he would like to express the hope that men everywhere may draw the logical conclusions from the necessity, often confessed, of restoring international trade to normal conditions. The absurdity of trying to force exports on other countries without, in turn, accepting imports from them seems sufficiently established by the unprecedented depression which is at present holding the world in its clutches.

TEXAS CATTLEMEN OPPOSE TUBERCULIN TESTING

PROTESTS AGAINST CONTINUED TESTING OF range cattle for tuberculosis were voiced by cattle-owners of the Texas Panhandle at a meeting in Amarillo on September 5. Accreditation of certain counties, it was declared in a statement issued, had already affected the normal movement in that territory. The limited area which it was possible to accredit for a long time to come would further restrict this movement and tend to create chaotic conditions on the range. Testing of herds, it was pointed out, would cause shrinkage and other losses which the industry, under existing conditions, would find it impossible to bear.

"Investigation has not disclosed that there has been a complaint that our cattle are infected with bovine tuberculosis," the statement says. "We have not been requested by buyers to furnish accredited cattle. The range and climatic conditions in this territory are such that bovine tuberculosis has never become prevalent on our ranges. The range herds which have been tested have shown that the disease does not exist. In view of the absence of information that the disease does exist in range cattle, we are confident that our herds are not infected with it."

Attention is called to the fact that the Department of Agriculture is now trying to determine through packing-house records whether or not the disease does exist among range cattle.

In view of these circumstances, the Panhandle Live Stock Association and the Texas and Southwestern Cattle Raisers' Association are requested to petition the Secretary of Agriculture to cause testing activities to cease in the Panhandle. The Live Stock Sanitary Association and the county commissioners of the various counties are likewise asked not to press the work.

As the plan of branding accredited cattle proposed by the market agencies at Kansas City is calculated to create unjust discrimination against the cattle of the Panhandle, these agencies are included in the appeal.

EXPORTS OF MEAT PRODUCTS, OILS, AND FATS

BY E. L. THOMAS

Specialist, Meats, Oils, and Fats, Department of Commerce

GREAT AS WAS THE SHRINKAGE IN THE AGGREGATE tonnage of meat products exported during the fiscal year 1931-32 (nearly 27 per cent under that of the previous year), the drop in dollar value ($22,336,000, or about 45 per cent) was even greater. Our export trade in animal oils and fats fared better. The contraction in tonnage was only 9 per cent, and the recession in value ($27,123,000), while in excess of the drop reflected in meat products, was less on a percentage basis.

Miscellaneous Meats Show Only Tonnage Gain

The decline in value of exports applied to all items, in some instances, as in the case of hams and shoulders and pickled pork, reaching 50 per cent or more. The greatest loss occurred in two relatively minor items—Cumberland and Wiltshire sides, and fresh poultry and game—which were down, respectively, 67 and 60 per cent. Miscellaneous meat products—consisting largely of edible offal, and therefore the products of least value—increased more than 2,250,000 pounds (about 8 per cent) in volume, and were the only class of meats to do so. Some of the more substantial reductions were in hams and shoulders, nearly 35 per cent; bacon, 51 per cent; pickled pork, approximately 28 per cent; canned meats, 14 per cent; and sausage casings, about 19 per cent.

Details of the meat-product export trade appear in the following table:

EXPORTS OF MEAT PRODUCTS

(Weights in thousands of pounds and values in thousands of dollars)

Meats	Quantity		Value	
	1930-31	1931-32	1930-31	1931-32
Beef and veal, fresh or frozen	2,601	1,737	$ 567	$ 323
Pork, fresh	11,093	9,273	1,833	1,039
Mutton and lamb, fresh	820	366	147	63
Hams and shoulders, cured	99,667	69,343	17,874	8,829
Bacon	50,128	24,404	7,271	2,247
Cumberland and Wiltshire sides	2,366	1,161	373	124
Pickled pork	21,118	15,229	2,652	1,219
Beef and veal, pickled or cured	13,781	12,694	1,296	796
Horse meat	8,802	5,813	708	407
Sausage, not canned	2,974	2,217	821	474
Meat, canned	15,415	13,213	5,484	3,314
Poultry and game, fresh	2,917	1,299	786	320
Meat extracts and gelatine	355	299	440	393
Other meats	32,010	34,374	3,284	2,695
Sausage casings	29,967	24,393	4,067	3,124
Totals	294,014	215,815	$47,603	$25,267

Lard Exports Off in Volume

Lard exports for the fiscal year 1930-31 were over twice as large as those of all meat products combined. During the past fiscal year the value of lard exports was 150 per cent larger than that of foreign shipments of meat products; yet 7 per cent less lard was sent abroad than during the previous year. The dollar value of lard exports during the year ending June 30 last was close to 40 per cent under the preceding year. Oleo oil, which ranked next to lard in importance, suffered a loss in volume of practically 25 per cent, but the value of exports was curtailed in the same percentage as that of lard. The volume of edible tallow was appreciably less, being but 16 per cent of that of the previous year, while the value was reduced to 12 per cent. Other declines were in neutral lard (approximately 30 per cent in volume and 50 per cent in value), and in lard compounds (40 per cent in volume and over 50 per cent in value). The reduction in the volume of oleomargarine exports was 9 per cent, although the declared value was about 30 per cent less.

Increases in volume of nearly 7 per cent were recorded for oleo stearin, and a smaller gain—slightly over 3 per cent—for oleo stock. Values, nevertheless, were down 26 per cent and 23 per cent, respectively, for these two fats.

EXPORTS OF EDIBLE ANIMAL FATS AND OILS
(000 omitted)

Fats and Oils	Quantity		Value	
	1930-31	1931-32	1930-31	1931-32
Neutral lard	585,649	542,629	$61,525	$37,556
Lard	10,759	7,690	1,201	621
Lard compounds	2,030	1,212	237	111
Oleo stearin	6,529	6,941	556	411
Oleomargarine	605	552	93	65
Oleo oil	54,980	43,762	4,678	2,831
Oleo stock	7,724	7,992	641	494
Tallow	4,784	778	322	40
Totals	673,060	611,556	$69,252	$42,129

Export Volume of Inedible Animal Fats Reduced

Smaller exports of all items characterized our trade in the inedible group of animal fats and oils. In value the decline measured about the same (40 per cent) as for edible fats and oils. A number of non-classified greases—mainly inedible hog greases—comprised 87 per cent of the volume exported in the year 1930-31, and a slightly larger percentage during the past year. The tonnage of these exports was off 12 per cent. From the percentage standpoint, the shrinkage was greatest in the case of fish-oil exports (59 per cent) and least for red oil (under 2 per cent).

EXPORTS OF INEDIBLE ANIMAL OILS
(000 omitted)

Oils and Greases	Quantity		Value	
	1930-31	1931-32	1930-31	1931-32
Neat's-foot oil	1,226	830	$ 183	$ 105
Other inedible animal oils	1,538	1,005	102	58
Fish oils	1,827	741	95	45
Grease stearin	4,461	2,483	325	134
Oleic acid (red oil)	1,088	1,071	86	58
Stearic acid	410	333	48	29
Other greases and fats	72,840	63,918	3,796	2,292
Totals	83,390	70,381	$4,635	$2,721

Inedible Vegetable Oils Only Class of Fats to Show Increase

A gain of 17,000,000 pounds, or over 28 per cent, in the quantity of inedible vegetable oils shipped abroad more than compensated for a fall in volume of 10,000,000 pounds, or 26 per cent, in our export trade in edible vegetable oils and fats. A very outstanding increase occurred in exports of crude cottonseed oil, which shot up from approximately 9,500,000 pounds in the previous fiscal year to nearly 31,750,000 pounds, or close to three and one-half times as much, during the fiscal year just ended. All but 2,500,000 pounds of this left our ports after January 1 of this year, which means that the rise was even more striking when compared on this basis with the second half of the previous fiscal year. Falling prices in home markets undoubtedly had much to do with heavier buying interest abroad. The values offer corroborative evidence that this was the case, because the increase in declared value for the past fiscal year was but 70 per cent in excess of the previous year, notwithstanding the huge increase in the quantity exported.

Despite lower values, there was an increase of less than 9 per cent in the amount of crude coconut oil sent abroad during the past fiscal year, while exports of the miscellaneous class of edible vegetable oils and fats were augmented 23 per cent. Otherwise decreases in both volume and value were general throughout the entire category of both edible and inedible oils and fats of vegetable origin. The following table supplies the particulars of this export trade:

EXPORTS OF VEGETABLE OILS AND FATS
(000 omitted)

Vegetable Oils	Quantity		Value	
	1930-31	1931-32	1930-31	1931-32
Edible—				
Cottonseed oil, refined	16,902	9,383	$1,532	$ 676
Soy-bean oil	4,410	3,649	413	288
Corn oil	915	775	123	67
Cocoa butter	463	320	93	50
Vegetable oil-lard compounds	5,661	3,191	737	330
Other edible oils and fats	4,722	5,816	491	375
Totals	33,073	23,134	$3,389	$1,785
Inedible—				
Coconut oil, crude	18,344	19,988	$1,162	$ 835
Cottonseed oil, crude	9,451	31,654	632	1,068
Linseed oil	1,297	873	150	75
Vegetable soap stock	21,626	19,244	1,008	707
Other expressed oils and fats	6,203	1,192	475	86
Totals	56,921	72,951	$3,427	$2,771
Grand totals	89,994	96,085	$6,816	$4,557

THE CATTLE SITUATION

BY F. W. BEIER, JR.

Live Stock Statistician, United States Department of Agriculture

THE CATTLE INDUSTRY IS FACING AN INCREASing supply of cattle and a decrease in the slaughter of cattle and calves; also a falling-off in the per-capita consumption of beef and veal.

The cattle population of the United States has been increasing since 1928, while slaughter of cattle and calves has been decreasing since 1926. Most of the recent increase in cattle numbers has been in cows and calves, with little change in steers during the past five years. The gain in cows has resulted in added calf numbers each year, with no compensating increase in calf slaughter. Of this larger number of calves, the steer calves have been slaughtered as yearlings or two-year-olds. There has been no accumulation of aged steers, as has occurred in other periods of increasing cattle numbers. While there has been a growing number of heifer calves of beef type, slaughtered as yearlings, the greater part of the increase in heifer calves has gone to augment the numbers of beef and milk cows. If the relatively small cow and heifer slaughter continues throughout the year, the number of cows by the end of 1932 will be near the largest on record. The expansion in cattle breeding stock is expected to result in a marked increase in the supply of cattle for slaughter within the next few years.

The number of cattle and calves in the United States at the beginning of 1932 was about 62,400,000 head—an increase of 10 per cent, or 5,700,000 head, over the low point of 1928. The number of cattle is slightly smaller than in 1925 and about 12 per cent smaller than on January 1, 1918, when there were 71,200,000 head of cattle and calves. The cattle population in 1918 carried a much larger proportion of steers than at the present time, with a smaller proportion of both milk and beef-type cows.

The present situation indicates the need for caution in regard to continued expansion. The increase in breeding stock since 1928 has placed the cattle industry in a position to enlarge its yearly output of beef very materially. The ability of the consuming market to take a greater supply of beef at remunerative prices to producers will depend largely on the extent to which consumer purchasing power improves.

Slaughter of cattle for the first eight months of 1932 has been about 6 per cent less than for the same period in 1931, and the smallest since 1921, while calf slaughter has shown a decrease of nearly 5 per cent. During the first

seven months of 1932, slaughter of cows and heifers has been about 10 per cent less than for the corresponding period in 1931, with steer slaughter about the same as in 1931. The live weight of cattle slaughtered so far this year has been a little less than last year.

Slaughter of cattle was very heavy from 1917 to 1919, and then decreased in 1920 and 1921, but was heavy again from 1922 to 1926, when the post-war liquidation took place. Slaughter of cattle and calves began to decrease in 1926, and has continued downward each year since, with the 1931 cattle slaughter being the lowest since 1921. Calf slaughter, which declined from 1926 to 1929, showed small increases in 1930 and 1931. The marketing of cattle at younger ages and the decreased supply of aged steers have not made any change in the average live weight of cattle marketed the past nine years. Weight of live cattle slaughtered under federal inspection from 1923 to 1931 averaged 946 to 964 pounds per head, with the heaviest weight, 964 pounds, in 1926, and the lowest, 946 pounds, in 1927.

Slaughter of cows and heifers was heavy during the period from 1923 to 1928, making up about 48 to 51 per cent of the total cattle slaughtered under federal inspection. In 1929 the percentage of cows and heifers dropped to 47 per cent, with 44 per cent in 1930 and 42 per cent in 1931. During the first seven months of 1932, slaughter of cows and heifers made up about 39 per cent of the total cattle slaughter, compared with 41 per cent for the first seven months of 1931.

Per-capita consumption of beef and veal has declined since 1926, with consumption of federally inspected beef and veal during the first six months of 1932 showing a 6 per cent decrease below the first six months of 1931.

The prolonged business depression, with its consequent lowering of consumer incomes, has resulted in a marked reduction in the demand for beef and veal. Consumer demand for beef and veal, as well as for other meats, has weakened steadily since early 1930. While consumer demand largely reflects consumer purchasing power, there is normally a lag between changes in business conditions and purchasing power and changes in the demand for beef, so that any improvement in business will not be reflected for several months in a stronger demand for beef and veal.

The supply of hogs for the next seven months will be somewhat smaller than for the same seven months a year earlier. There are prospects for an increase in the fall pig crop of 1932. The larger corn crop than in 1931, and a smaller supply of hogs to consume it, will probably result in a situation where the relationship between hog prices and corn prices during the next several months will result in a considerable increase in hog production in 1933. Such an increase is likely to result in burdensome supplies during the hog-marketing year (October, 1933, to September, 1934).

As to the immediate future of the cattle industry, it is expected that fall marketings of cattle and calves will be slightly larger than in 1931. The fall movement of western grass cattle and calves is expected to be a little late and to carry a smaller proportion of cows, due to the comparatively low prices of cows, while calf marketings will be relatively large, with steers and yearlings shipped rather closely.

The principal feeding areas of the Corn Belt have a large corn crop, and good supplies of fall pastures and other feeds. With the low prices for feed crops and fewer hogs, the fall movement of stocker and feeder cattle should reach normal proportions. This movement, however, will depend on finances; but there has been an evident easing of credit for Corn Belt feeders.

The estimated number of cattle on feed in the Corn Belt the first of August was 5 per cent less than a year earlier, with an increase in the eastern Corn Belt and a decrease in the western Corn Belt, where the 1931 corn crop was short. Of the cattle on feed the first of August this year, there was an increase from a year earlier in the proportion of animals weighing under 900 pounds, but a decrease in the heavier cattle. Shipments of cattle through the markets into the Corn Belt from January 1 to June 30, 1932, were about 29 per cent less than in 1931, with the largest decrease being shown in heavier steers, and cows and heifers.

The movement of cattle and calves into the Corn Belt through the markets during July and August of this year was nearly as large as for the same two months in 1931, but considerably larger than in 1930. July and August, 1932, movement shows a considerable increase in heavy steers and calves, a light decrease in steers weighing from 500 to 700 pounds, and a large decrease in cows and heifers.

In recent weeks the markets have had a small supply of well-finished cattle and rising values on heavy steers. Prices of light and medium-weight steers, and of cows and heifers, have shown no definite trend, either upward or downward, although they have fluctuated considerably. In general, the average level of cattle prices is not greatly different from a year ago. Cattle selling below the prices of a year ago are the better grades of cows and heifers, and of light and medium-weight steers.

Market supplies of cattle were unusually small in both July and August, with the inspected slaughter in the two months much below average. The August slaughter of cattle was the smallest since 1915, and 13 per cent below August, 1931. Calf slaughter in August was slightly larger than in August, 1931. Receipts of slaughter steers at Chicago during late August and early September were 24 per cent smaller than for the corresponding period last year.

Total cattle slaughter during the remainder of the year will be determined largely by the policy of both dairymen and beef-cattle producers in disposing of grass-fat cows and heifers and of cull cows. If marketings of such stock continue as small relatively as they have been thus far this year, total cattle slaughter will be less than the unusually small slaughter of a year earlier. The extent to which heavy steers, that otherwise would go for immediate slaughter, are taken out by finishers for a short feed also will affect both total slaughter and its distribution during the next few months.

CONTRACT FEEDING

INCREASING DIFFICULTY DURING THE PAST FEW years, especially the last season, of securing feeder-loan money has revived, in the form of contract feeding, the old practice of bartering. With feed in abundance and only a limited market for grass-fat stuff, this method provides a more profitable outlet for both animal and feed.

The three fundamental types of contracts, designated as the gain-basis, the investment-basis, and the custom-feeding plans, are explained in a bulletin entitled "The Contract Feeding of Live Stock," by R. R. Thalman, of the University of Nebraska. Under the first of these plans the feeder is reimbursed on the basis of the weight he adds to the cattle. The grower agrees to make delivery free of objectionable animals and to guarantee a twelve-hour period of "off feed and water" prior to weighing. The feeder agrees to care for and feed the animals, and to make delivery as the animals become fat. Both agree on the weights, the advance of freight charges, the place of marketing, the division of death losses, the assumption of feeding-in-transit tax, if any,

and the number of days the animals shall be fed at public feeding stations. Gross proceeds, distributed by the commission firm, after marketing costs and freight have been deducted, go first to pay the mortgagees, if any, after which the feeder receives his stipulated amount for the gain (and his bonus, if such is provided for). The balance is paid to the grower.

The second general type of contract—the investment-basis plan—is held to divide the risks incident to falling prices, as well as profits to be gained by rising markets, on a more equitable basis than any other type of agreement. Profits or losses are shared according to the amount invested. The grower's live stock is inventoried, and this sum, plus interest charges for the period of feeding, represents the grower's investment. Feeds, labor, and other overhead of the feeder make up his investment. Provision is made for shrinks, death loss, etc. To avoid injustice to the grower from negligence or mismanagement on the part of the feeder, stipulations are made basing the feeder's investment on the net gain put on the animals at the average cost per pound of gain, with feed prices, death loss, and overhead costs considered. Or, a representative may look after the grower's interests.

The custom-feeding plan is particularly suitable for a grower who wants his live stock fattened for market at his own risk, or for a feeder who, though having the feed and facilities, is hesitant about feeding because of the financial risks involved. The fattening is done under the grower's direction, the feeder being paid an agreed price for feeds, labor, and overhead. In this contract, death loss is usually borne by the grower, except for such as results from negligence of the feeder.

The number of pounds of gain, multiplied by the price on the open market, plus $1 per cwt. on such gain, is the amount stipulated as the feeder's proceeds in a contract used by the Producers' Commission Association of Kansas City. Death loss, except through negligence of the feeder, falls on the grower. Marketing and transportation expenses are shared by each party in proportion to the weights of the cattle as they leave their hands. A similar contract is employed by the Intermountain Live Stock Marketing Association at Denver.

The bulletin mentioned above, which may be had upon request to the University of Nebraska, contains many data of value to those interested in contract feeding. Its feed-cost charts and information on feeds for cattle and sheep make it useful as a handbook for the live-stock feeder. Our readers are also referred to an article in the March PRODUCER by Professor A. F. Vass, of the University of Wyoming, entitled "Steer Feeding Contracts for 1931-32," for further material on this subject.

TRI-STATE STOCKMEN IN JOINT MEETING

AT A JOINT MEETING OF OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS of the Wyoming, Nebraska, and South Dakota Stock Growers' Associations at Alliance, Nebraska, September 23, 1932, for the primary purpose of remedying defects in the brand-inspection system, an order was issued requiring that all cattle in the future be finally inspected for brands at the public market on which they are sold, and that the practice of inspecting at feed-lots shall cease unless the cattle are to be shipped to some place where no brand-inspection service is maintained by the three associations.

On the matter of change of ownership en route and rebilling at the through rate, the following resolution was passed:

"WHEREAS, The ability to change ownership of live stock in transit at the through rate is very beneficial to the live-stock industry and materially enlarges the outlet; and

"WHEREAS, This arrangement has been continued at some points, such as Denver, Ogden, and North Salt Lake City, and withdrawn at others, such as Omaha, Kansas City, St. Joseph, and Sioux City; therefore be it

"*Resolved*, That the officers, directors, and representatives of the Wyoming, Nebraska, and South Dakota Stock Growers' Associations, at a meeting held at Alliance, Nebraska, September 23, 1932, reiterate their stand in favor of such an arrangement."

CONFERENCES ON RECONSIGNMENT PRIVILEGE

DURING THE PAST SIXTY DAYS REPRESENTATIVES of the packers have met with officials of producer organizations in Kansas, Texas, New Mexico, Colorado, Utah, and Montana to discuss the issues arising from the filing of complaints regarding the reconsignment privilege. It had been hoped that a common ground might be found in this important matter, and that long and costly hearings before the Interstate Commerce Commission might be thus avoided. It appears, however, that there are so many diverse interests involved, with railroads, stock-yard companies, packers, and producers each necessarily looking out for No. 1, that it is a practical impossibility to reach a private agreement satisfactory to all. Under the circumstances, there remains no alternative but to proceed with formal hearings. Announcement as to the time and place of these will probably be made in the near future.

DENVER STOCK-YARD CASE NOT TO BE APPEALED

NO APPEAL WILL BE TAKEN BY THE GOVERNMENT from the decision rendered in April by the three-judge federal court in the Denver stock-yard rate case, it was announced last month, just before expiration of the time limit for such an appeal.

This case, it will be remembered, involved the right of the Secretary of Agriculture to evaluate the property of the stock-yard company as a basis for fixing charges. The secretary had found that 7.5 per cent on the investment, as determined by his examiner, was a fair return, and had arranged a rate schedule accordingly. He also had ruled that yard traders were to be assessed one-half of the regular rates. Attacking this principle, and claiming that certain valuable property had been excluded by the examiner, the company filed suit for an injunction to restrain the secretary from putting his order into effect.

Two of the three judges upheld the right of the secretary to value the property as a rate basis, but found that there were certain errors in the methods used, in that some of the lands owned by the company should not have been excluded. In the opinion of this majority, the secretary had also erred in imposing a trader fee. One judge, in a minority opinion, held that this fee was proper.

It is this fifty-fifty decision which the Department of Justice, contrary to the recommendation of Secretary Hyde, after considering the matter for six months, has now decided to let stand.

Meanwhile, as told in the last number of THE PRODUCER, a voluntary reduction in yardage charges has been made by the Denver Union Stock Yards Company for the present fall shipping season.

KANSAS CITY REPLIES TO JOINT LETTER

AMONG THE STOCK-YARD COMPANIES TO WHICH the recent joint appeal for a voluntary reduction in yardage rates was addressed by the American National Live Stock Association and the National Wool Growers' Association, in conjunction with state live-stock associations throughout the West (see THE PRODUCER for August, page 10), was the Kansas City Stock Yards Company. A reply had not been received in time to be included in the summary of answers published in our last issue (page 9). Under date of September 28, W. H. Weeks, vice-president of the Kansas City company, states the reasons for not complying with the request of the stockmen.

Items of operating expense over which the company has no control, such as taxes, upkeep, water, electric lights and power, and insurance, says Mr. Weeks, remain at the peak. In addition, during the first half of the current year the Kansas City yards suffered from decreased receipts, due to a larger volume of direct selling and to the fact that the railroads had withdrawn the change-of-ownership privilege from that market. Two-thirds of the business of the yards is handled on Mondays, and the bulk of it arrives in the four months of fall, making it necessary to maintain personnel and facilities adequate to handle maximum receipts. These things, Mr. Weeks holds, it is largely in the power of producers themselves to remedy. If the yards are to continue, they must be supported, and the greater the volume handled, the sooner charges can be lowered.

A point is made of the fact that a reduction, say, of five cents a head would mean very little to the average shipper, marketing only one or two cars of live stock during the year, but would spell a big loss to the market on account of the number of such small shippers.

COLORADO RANGE LAW CONSTITUTIONAL

IN A MAJORITY OPINION HANDED DOWN BY THE Colorado Supreme Court on October 12, the state range law of 1929, authorizing District Courts to apportion grazing on the public domain between cattlemen and sheepmen, was declared not to be in violation of the federal Constitution.

The case was before the court on an appeal from a decision of the District Court of Delta County denying an injunction sought by sheep-raisers to restrain the court from designating certain portions of public grazing land as exclusively cattle range Claim was made that such determination of preferred grazing rights violated the article in the Constitution giving Congress power to administer the public domain, and also the Fourteenth Amendment, which prohibits states from depriving citizens of their "life, liberty, or property without due process of law." The court held that, while Congress is vested with the power to control and make rules for the public domain, the states may prescribe reasonable police regulations, provided these do not conflict with congressional enactment, or in default of such enactment.

CO-OPERATIVE SLAUGHTERING PLANT

A CO-OPERATIVE SLAUGHTER PLANT IS TO BE constructed by stockmen and farmers at Caldwell, Idaho, the center of the live-stock industry of southwestern Idaho and eastern Oregon. Plans call for the annual marketing and butchering of not less than 150,000 hogs grown by members of the company, which has filed articles of incorporation under the name of the Idaho Meat Producers. The plant is to be modernly equipped, and will specialize in the slaughter of hogs, lambs, and non-profitable dairy cows. It is not proposed at present to engage in the packing of meat on an extensive scale, as it is expected that the greater part of the output will be disposed of to packers on the Pacific coast.

MEXICAN NATIONAL LIVE STOCK EXPOSITION

FROM THE MEXICAN EMBASSY AT WASHINGTON has been received a cordial invitation to members of the American National Live Stock Association to attend, and send exhibits to, the National Live Stock Exposition of Mexico, to be held in San Jacinto, just outside the City of Mexico, during the week from November 13 to 20. This annual event, to which are sent specimens of the best breeds, not only from the various states of Mexico, but from foreign countries as well, is supported by the Mexican government and supplies an excellent illustration of what has been done in recent years to improve the live stock of our sister-republic.

Free round-trip transportation from the border to Mexico City is granted for all animals exhibited, on presentation of a document specifying number, species, breed, sex, origin, etc., accompanied by a health certificate stating that they are free from infectious diseases. Winners in the contests are awarded substantial prizes.

Since, as stated in the invitation, cattlemen from all parts of Mexico gather at these yearly shows for the purpose of replenishing their breeding herds, it should be evident that here is offered an opportunity for a pleasant visit to the beautiful capital of our neighbor to the south which may prove profitable as well.

Address all inquiries to the Agricultural Attaché, Mexican Embassy, 2829 Sixteenth Street, N.W., Washington, D. C.

THE CALENDAR

October 8-16, 1932—National Dairy Exposition, St. Louis, Mo.
October 15-22, 1932—Pacific International Live Stock Exposition, Portland, Ore.
October 29-November 4, 1932—Ak-Sar-Ben Live Stock Show, Omaha, Neb.
November 7-10, 1932—Kansas. National Live Stock Show, Wichita, Kan.
November 12-19, 1932—American Royal Live Stock Show and Fiftieth Anniversary Show of American Hereford Cattle Breeders' Association, Kansas City, Mo.
November 13-20, 1932—National Live Stock Exposition, City of Mexico, Mexico.
November 14-15, 1932—Annual Convention of Institute of American Meat Packers, Chicago, Ill.
November 14-16, 1932—Junior Live Stock Show, San Francisco, Cal.
November 16-25, 1932—Annual Convention of National Grange, Winston-Salem, N. C.
November 17-18, 1932—Annual Convention of California Wool Growers' Association, San Francisco, Cal.
November 26-December 3, 1932—International Live Stock Exposition, Chicago, Ill.
November 26-December 3, 1932—Great Western Live Stock Show, Los Angeles, Cal.
December 9-10, 1932—Annual Convention of California Cattlemen's Association and Western Cattle Marketing Association, San Francisco, Cal.
January 12-14, 1933—Thirty-sixth Annual Convention of American National Live Stock Association, Ogden, Utah.
January 14-21, 1933—National Western Stock Show, Denver, Colo.
March 11-19, 1933—Southwestern Exposition and Fat Stock Show, Fort Worth, Tex.

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THE FARM STRIKE

AFTER YEARS OF STRUGGLE AGAINST disheartening odds, the patience of farmers in the Middle West has at last reached the breaking point and made them borrow a weapon from the armory of organized labor by declaring a strike. In several states groups of desperate men have been patrolling the highways, stopping trucks carrying produce and live stock to the city markets, and in some cases resorting to acts of violence to accomplish their purpose. Where a person's bread and butter is involved, rough methods may be expected.

While it is impossible to withhold one's sympathy from the victims of a system that permits an accumulation of food in the hands of producers of which they cannot dispose on terms of even the meagerest of profits, at the same time that millions are starving for want of the means to buy this same food at any price, it seems doubtful that a "holiday strike" is the road to relief. Damming back products ready for market at a time when agriculture's difficulties have been, to say the least, greatly aggravated by surpluses cannot help but store up trouble as well. It is impossible to say whether agriculture is overorganized or underorganized. With three national associations, each busy pushing its own program, and sometimes failing to co-operate in matters of common concern, farmers have given indifferent support to the Agricultural Marketing Act, which offered them the only real means of effectively controlling their own marketing machinery that has ever been available to them. The same men who have taken the lead in organizing the "farmers' holiday" movement have opposed, rather than helped, the co-operative organizations now operating in the Corn Belt in conformity with the provisions of that act.

However, the protest made by the farm strikers, ill-advised though their effort appears, cannot be ignored. If only as a symptom of the mood of the farmers, and as a portent of what may happen on a larger scale if remedies are not soon applied, the situation is acknowledged to be serious. Realizing this, the governors of Iowa, North and South Dakota, and Minnesota, and representatives of the governors of Nebraska, Wyoming, Oklahoma, Wisconsin, and Ohio, last month met in conference at Sioux City—the center of the trouble—to consider the emergency. An embargo on all farm produce until prices reached a satisfactory level, demanded by the farmers, was vetoed—rightly so, we think. Instead, a program of federal financial aid was recommended, embracing these points:

1. Revision of the tariff to give equality of protection to agriculture and to lessen the burden of foreign competition with our farm products, including fats and oils.
2. Sound expansion of the currency.
3. Reorganization of the agricultural credit system so as to refinance the farmer at a lower rate of interest.
4. Extension to agriculture of the credit facilities of the Reconstruction Finance Corporation.
5. Surplus-control legislation.
6. Action by the President directing all federally controlled credit agencies to refrain from foreclosures of mortgages on farm property until Congress assembles, followed by recommendation to Congress to stop such foreclosures for the period of one year or until an effective plan may be worked out.
7. No attempt by the Department of Agriculture to collect feed and seed loans during this emergency period.
8. Request of owners of mortgages on farm property that they refrain from foreclosure or eviction proceedings against distressed farmers for non-payment of interest or taxes, unless the farmer fails to pay what is equal to a landlord's share of his produce.

This proposition was rejected by the farmers as too roundabout and cumbersome. Meanwhile the movement has been spreading. At the same time (to the credit of its leaders be it said) it has taken on a more peaceful character, depending in larger

measure upon the power of persuasion to gain its end. The sane way to do a thing is always the best way. Results are sometimes slower than we should like, but fewer costly mistakes are made. However, if the farm strike serves to center attention on the imperative need of removing at the earliest possible moment all bars to a prosperous agriculture, whether they be in the shape of inequitable tariffs, too heavy tax burdens, or what not, and if, in addition, it helps to stimulate farmers into a consciousness of their power through effective organization, it will have been worth while. With the best consuming market in the world, American agriculture has first of all to conquer itself before coming into its own as a force second to none. Its destiny will be fulfilled only when that time comes.

THE RAILROAD CLINIC

THE ANNOUNCEMENT ELSEWHERE IN this issue of the appointment of a railroad commission, headed by ex-President Calvin Coolidge, to recommend legislation which will save the railroads, and investors in railroad securities, is of more than transient interest. For the past two years the railroads of the United States have been all steamed up, with no place to go. Admittedly the situation is bad, and the patient is very ill. Accustomed to riding high, independent as the proverbial hog on ice, enjoying a practical monopoly in the entire field of transportation, the carriers have been unable to adjust themselves to changed conditions. It may be open to question whether Class I railroads are so near bankruptcy as they claim. It would be necessary to have an understanding of how much real capital is invested to determine that point satisfactorily. But bankrupt in leadership they certainly are.

During the last year or two some progress has been made in meeting truck competition through establishing lower rates *where necessary* (confined largely to short hauls) and through the inauguration of pick-up service, faster freight trains, etc. But there has been no change in the basic policy of fixing rates at "what the traffic will bear," instead of basing them on "cost of service rendered." Adjustments in rate bases needed to facilitate live-stock movements as new conditions develop, reconsignment privileges, joint-line intrastate rates, etc., are in many instances as hard to get as ever. The men in charge of these matters should be advised that the railroads have competition today, and not wait until the business is gone before they are willing to grant the concession.

It is generally thought that the present plight of the railroads is largely due to the depression. That is far from the truth. For example, in the first six months of 1931, 43,844,239 cattle, calves, hogs, and sheep were delivered to the sixty-three principal public markets; during the same period this year 41,298,272 head were received—a decline of less than 6 per cent. In the first twenty-six weeks of 1931, 549,605 carloads of live stock were handled by the railroads; in 1932, 465,769 cars—a decrease of more than 15 per cent. The trucks picked up what the railroads lost.

All the wisdom which the new and talented commission will be able to concentrate on the subject, all the laws that may be passed to deal with it, will be mere palliatives unless they go to the seat of the trouble. Even to consider raising rates to increase revenues, under today's conditions, is absurd. To attempt to meet the situation by shackling the trucks with unwise and unfair regulation would add the last straw to the burden on the backs of a long-suffering public. The real cure, and the only one, is to reduce the cost of transportation somewhere near in line with reduced commodity values.

FOREST GRAZING FEES

LIVE-STOCK ORGANIZATIONS ARE JOINING in a demand that the 50 per cent reduction in grazing fees granted for 1932 be extended either for the year 1933 or for the remainder of the term of the existing ten-year permits, which has two years to run. Attention is called to the fact that state-land valuations and rentals are being reduced, and that valuations on privately owned land are being slashed as the first step in a nation-wide drive to reduce taxes. It is, therefore, entirely logical that there should be a reduction in forest-land rentals. Making such a reduction is entirely in line with the trend in every kind of business, and does not come under the head of charity.

As a matter of fact, it is time to call attention to the fairness and sheer need of a substantial reduction in the basic grazing fee for the ten-year period beginning in 1935. The resolution adopted by the American National Live Stock Association last January was the first move in this direction, and will command the support of every live-stock organization in the West. There is no valid ground for a theory that live-stock conditions will be sufficiently improved during the next year or so to justify a continuation of the old scale. Instead, there is every indication that both cattle- and sheepmen face a long up-hill battle before there is such substantial improvement in net returns as will obviate the use of red ink in balancing the books. It is absolutely essential that every possible aid be given the industry in this emergency, and there is no better way to start than by lowering taxes, land rentals, and grazing fees.

REFERENDUMS ON OLEOMARGARINE LAWS

ELECTORS OF FOUR WESTERN STATES will vote next month on bills taxing the sale of oleomargarine, passed during the last sessions of the state legislatures, and later referred to the people.

In Colorado the law provides a tax of 15 cents per pound on all margarine, except such as "contains 45 per cent or more of animal fats." This bill was referred to the voters by manufacturers of coconut-oil margarine. It should have the support of every stockman, and of every friend of the live-stock and dairy industries, in the State of Colorado. Vote "Yes," and you will help preserve the local market for butter and margarine manufactured from home products. Vote "No," and you help provide a market for coconut-oil products, at the expense of domestic producers.

In the States of Oklahoma, Oregon, and South Dakota the situation is different. In each of these states a tax of 10 cents a pound is provided for all margarine, regardless of its content. The bills protect the dairy industry at the expense of cattle- and hog-producers, and for that reason they should be defeated. Be sure to vote in such a way as to nullify this discriminatory legislation. Then, when the laws have been defeated, bills should be drafted along the line of the Colorado measure, or exempting from the tax only product manufactured 100 per cent from domestic fats and oils. This would protect both the dairy industry and the live-stock industry against unfair competition of cheap coconut-oil products.

OTTAWA CONFERENCE ADJOURNS

AFTER A MONTH'S DELIBERATIONS, THE delegates to the Imperial Conference at Ottawa have packed their grips and gone home to the four corners of the globe. Before they left, twelve two-party agreements were signed. These run between the mother-country and daughter-nations, on the one hand, and between these latter separately, on the other. All are intended to advance the economic life of the empire and strengthen the bonds binding together its various units. Pending submission to the respective parliaments, full details have not been disclosed. Some of the results, however, are known.

Canada and Australia are to get a six-cent tariff preference on wheat in the British market, and Canada a 10 per cent preference on lumber. Imports into the United Kingdom of foreign meats of all kinds are to be "regulated," but, so far as appears, without the imposition of a tariff. Certain advantages are to be granted the dominions on shipments of dairy products, fish, and fruits. All restrictions on imports of Canadian cattle are to be removed. India is to receive concessions on tanned hides, carpets, and other goods in which she specializes. The one exception to this benevolence on the part of Mother England is the Irish Free State—the bad boy of the family, who is punished for his recent misbehavior by being left out in the cold.

In return, the dominions promise to lower their tariffs on all manufactures of British origin, and in many instances to admit them duty-free. In the case of Canada, 220 commodities are embraced in the list, including coal, iron and steel products, and textiles.

The pacts run for from three to ten years. How far they have succeeded in attaining their object, time alone can tell. To reconcile the maze of diverging interests represented by these nine self-governing units in such a way that each would gain from the arrangement obviously was no easy task. There is little sentiment in trade. When running counter to commercial advantage, even patriotism is relegated to a back seat. If it should be found that the understandings entered into threaten profitable trade relations with countries outside of the empire, they are not likely long to remain popular. While the British delegation, on arriving home, gave out a statement saying that results "marked a degree of success far beyond anything that was expected," private accounts emphasize the bitterness with which negotiations were conducted and strike the pessimistic note that, instead of drawing the dominions closer together, the conference only threw them farther apart.

As to what the plan, granted parliamentary ratification, will cost the United States, opinions differ. Some economists hold that the effects will not be serious. Others predict a certain loss of from $30,000,000 to $100,000,000, and think that eventually it may reach $300,000,000. Packers are said not to be losing sleep over the outlook for their meat business. But how about our coal and steel industries, our cotton, woolen, and leather manufacturers, and the makers of the many other articles for which Canada, especially, has been one of our chief customers in the past? Considering the large variety of commodities at which the agreement is aimed, it is difficult to see how our dwindling export trade can escape further material damage.

Agricultural Advisory Committee for Canada

A Canadian National Advisory Committee on Agriculture has been set up, composed of the ministers of agriculture from all the nine provinces. The duties of the committee will be to watch the markets of the world and see to it that Canadian farmers get the full benefit of the trade agreements concluded at the Ottawa conference.

WHAT THE GOVERNMENT IS DOING

PERSONNEL OF NEW CREDIT AGENCIES

DESIGNATION OF THE MEN WHO WILL HAVE charge of the regional agricultural credit corporations thus far organized in the western states has been announced by Wilson McCarthy, of Salt Lake City, director of the Reconstruction Finance Corporation, as below:

District No. 6 (Illinois, Missouri, and Arkansas)—Main office, St. Louis.
  Kansas City branch—Manager, Harry C. Jobes, Kansas City, banker; committee consists of four bankers and three producers.

District No. 7 (Michigan, Wisconsin, Minnesota, and North Dakota)—Main office, Minneapolis; manager, John W. Barton, banker, with Reconstruction Finance Corporation; directors include five bankers, four producers, and two business men.

District No. 8 (Iowa, Nebraska, South Dakota, and Wyoming)—Main office, Sioux City; manager, C. C. Jacobsen, Sioux City, banker; directors include nine bankers.
  Omaha branch—Manager, Charles C. Kuning, Cedar Rapids, banker; committee consists of seven bankers and two producers, one of the latter being J. Elmer Brock, Kaycee, Wyo., president of Wyoming Stock Growers' Association.
  Cheyenne branch—Manager, Leo A. Dunn; committee consists of six bankers, three live-stock men, and three merchants.

District No. 9 (Kansas, Oklahoma, Colorado, and New Mexico)—Main office, Wichita; manager, C. W. Floyd, Sedan, Kan., banker and stockman; directors include four bankers and six producers, among the latter being J. H. Mercer, Topeka, secretary of Kansas Live Stock Association, and T. E. Mitchell, Albert, N. M., cattleman and former president of New Mexico Cattle Growers' Association.
  Denver branch—Manager, George A. Gribble, Sterling, Colo., banker, assistant manager of Reconstruction Finance Corporation; committee consists of four bankers and six producers, among the latter being Charles E. Collins, Kit Carson, Colo., cattleman, banker, and president of American National Live Stock Association, and James G. Brown, Montrose, Colo., sheepman and president of Colorado Wool Growers' Association.
  Oklahoma City branch—Not yet organized.

District No. 10 (Texas)—Main office, Fort Worth; manager, A. E. Thomas, Fort Worth, banker; directors include seven bankers and three producers.
  Houston branch—Manager, Ben S. Smith, Mexia; committee consists of five bankers and seven producers, among the latter being H. L. Kokernot, Corpus Christi, cattleman and former president of Texas and Southwestern Cattle Raisers' Association, and Richard King, Corpus Christi, cattleman.
  San Angelo branch—Manager, G. C. Magruder, San Angelo; committee consists of ten producers.

District No. 11 (Arizona, Utah, Nevada, and California)—Main office, Salt Lake City; manager, S. Grover Rich, Salt Lake City; directors include three bankers and seven producers, among the latter being J. M. Macfarlane, Salt Lake City, cattleman and president of Utah Cattle and Horse Raisers' Association; George J. Russell, Jr., Elko, Nev., cattleman and former president of Nevada Land and Live Stock Association, and Charles Redd, La Sal, Utah, sheepman.
  Phoenix and San Francisco branches—Not yet organized.

District No. 12 (Montana, Idaho, Oregon, and Washington)—Main office, Spokane; manager, R. E. Towle, manager of Helena branch of Federal Reserve Bank; directors not yet chosen.
  Helena branch—Manager, H. A. Piggott, former manager of War Finance Corporation; committee includes three bankers and five producers.
  Boise branch—Manager, H. L. Streeter, Boise, banker; committee includes one banker, two merchants, and two producers.

DENVER OFFICE OF AGRICULTURAL CREDIT CORPORATION READY FOR BUSINESS

ORGANIZATION OF THE DENVER BRANCH OF THE Ninth Land Bank District Agricultural Credit Corporation, headquarters of which are located at Wichita, Kansas, as announced in the September PRODUCER, was completed last month with the appointment of an executive manager and an advisory Loan Committee by Ford E. Hovey, in charge of the agricultural-relief work of the Reconstruction Finance Corporation. George A. Gribble, formerly vice-president and cashier of the State Bank of Sterling, Colorado, has been selected to head the Denver organization. Among the ten men, with practical experience in the banking and live-stock fields, who make up the Loan Committee are Charles E. Collins, of Kit Carson, stockman, banker, and president of the American National Live Stock Association; W. A. Braiden, banker and stockman of La Jara; W. C. Harris, stock-feeder of Sterling; Charles J. Moynihan, lawyer and sheepman of Montrose; and James G. Brown of Montrose, president of the Colorado Wool Growers' Association. Offices will be in the Midland Savings Building, Denver.

With the arrival from Washington of loan blanks and rules of procedure, the relief agencies organized throughout the West are ready to function. Consideration of applications for loans from regional corporations was begun by the Reconstruction Finance Corporation on September 16. Direct loans will be extended to stockmen, dairy farmers, and growers of crops.

The interest rate on feeder and range loans has been fixed at 7 per cent, which includes inspection and service charges. The matter of freight on feeders has been left to the discretion of the managers.

"THE PRODUCER is good all the way through."—E. ZANTOW, Bettendorf, Ia.

HOME LOAN BANKS READY TO FUNCTION

ON OCTOBER 15 THE TWELVE HOME LOAN BANKS, established under act of the last session of Congress, will open their doors, each with a capital of from $6,000,000 to $12,000,000. Funds will be available to home financing institutions, building and loan associations, savings and loan associations, homestead associations, co-operative banks, savings banks, and insurance companies, which will borrow from the home loan banks on security of the mortgages now held by them.

To procure loans, individual home-owners will proceed exactly as before. They go to a local home-financing institution and make their application. The only difference, according to Ward B. Whitlock, president of the United States Building and Loan Ieague, is that now the local institution has money to lend, up to the limit of its borrowing power from the home loan bank.

FEDERAL FARM BOARD

THE CHICAGO BOARD OF TRADE HAS APPEALED the ruling of the Grain Futures Commission, made two months ago, ordering the board either to admit the Farmers' National Grain Corporation to full trading privileges or, as a penalty, to close its doors for sixty days. Oral arguments have been set for October 21 by the United States Circuit Court of Appeals.

As reasons for denying membership, it was alleged by the Board of Trade that the Farmers' National was not a true co-operative, and that the rules of the board did not permit corporations to belong.

* * *

In a radio talk by C. G. Randell, in charge of the live-stock and wool section of the Federal Farm Board, an account is given of what has been done by the National Feeder and Finance Corporation during the two years of its existence. In this brief period of operation, six regional credit corporations have been established, located at Chicago, Denver, San Francisco, Salt Lake City, Oklahoma City, and Fort Worth. These agencies have a total paid-up capital of $2,851,975. Of this amount, $451,975 has been supplied by farmers and ranchmen, and $2,400,000 by the Federal Farm Board through loans. By utilizing the discount facilities of the federal intermediate credit banks, the credit corporations up to September 1 had loaned to live-stock producers and feeders more than $28,000,000. With an additional capital stock of $1,000,000 committed by the Farm Board, the corporations have a total loan capacity of approximately $40,000,000. Since loans of only about $10,000,000 are outstanding, there is thus an unused line of credit available of $30,000,000.

* * *

Announcement has been made by Chairman James C. Stone of the Farm Board that the Grain Stabilization Corporation has sold all of its cash wheat except 3,000,000 bushels, which will not be put on the market until January 1, 1933. In addition, the corporation owns a certain amount of wheat on futures contracts. This means that more than 254,000,000 bushels have been disposed of since July 1, 1931, and more than 186,000,000 bushels since November 1, 1931. The Stabilization Corporation, as pointed out by Mr. Stone, is thus no longer a factor in the grain market.

* * *

Of the 650,000 bales of cotton proposed to be marketed by the Cotton Stabilization Corporation prior to July 31, 1933, more than 300,000 bales have been sold. The remaining stocks will be withdrawn from sale until March 1, 1933, except such as may be sold at 12 cents a pound or more.

* * *

Net profits of $1,297,579 were made by the Farmers' National Grain Corporation during the year ended March 31, 1932, according to a report just issued. The corporation had dealt in grain valued at $130,000,000 during the year.

REDUCTION OF GRAZING FEES

UNDER THE CONTINUED PRESSURE OF RUINously low live-stock prices, demands for further reductions in grazing fees on national forests are being made by organizations and individuals throughout the West. The National Wool Growers' Association and several state sheepmen's associations have asked the Secretary of Agriculture to lower the fees by one-half for 1933, as was done during the current year, and to revise them downward thereafter. Similar action has been taken by the Montana Stock Growers' Association. Senators Carey, of Wyoming, Steiwer, of Oregon, and Thomas, of Idaho, who were instrumental in securing the reduction for 1932, are working diligently to that end. Senator Smoot, of Utah, is reported to be urging that no fees be collected for the years 1933 and 1934.

Several members of the Arizona Cattle Growers' Association, supported by the two Arizona senators, have requested the Forest Service to remit the fees for the latter half of 1932. In his reply to Senator Ashurst, Major R. Y. Stuart, Chief Forester, reiterates the reason for his refusal to recommend similar requests in the past. These reasons are familiar to our readers, and have to do with the facts that permittees are only a minority of western stock-growers; that the present financial difficulties of the industry are being shared in equal measure by those who do not have access to forest grazing; that the fees, even before they were cut, were probably, on the average, lower than the charges for ranges of similar quality; and that a complete remission would undoubtedly meet with the strong disapproval of many tax-paying groups and their representatives in Congress.

We call attention to an editorial, printed on another page, stating the position of the American National Live Stock Association upon this question.

SEPTEMBER CROP REPORT

MINOR CHANGES FROM THE PREVIOUS MONTH were recorded in crop prospects as forecast by the Department of Agriculture on September 1. Production figures and condition (in percentages of normal) were given as below:

	Production	Condition
Winter wheat (bu.)	441,788,000	......
Spring wheat (bu.)	272,750,000	67.5
All wheat (bu.)	714,538,000	......
Corn (bu.)	2,854,307,000	74.4
Oats (bu.)	1,244,781,000	75.4
Rye (bu.)	42,453,000	......
Barley (bu.)	302,666,000	70.9
Buckwheat (bu.)	7,200,000	72.1
Flaxseed (bu.)	13,310,000	47.7
Grain sorghums (bu.)	118,000,000	69.0
Potatoes (bu.)	356,746,000	70.7
Hay, tame (tons)	68,587,000	76.8
Hay, wild (tons)	11,414,000	......
Sugar-beets (tons)	8,206,000	84.2
Cotton (bales)	11,310,000	56.6

OUR TRAFFIC PROBLEMS

NEW RAILROAD COMMISSION

EX-PRESIDENT CALVIN COOLIDGE HAS BEEN chosen to head a commission of five appointed by President Hoover to make a thorough study of the railway situation and propose means for bringing order out of the financial chaos into which the country's transportation system has sunk. The other members of the commission—described as "non-partisan," though bipartisan might be a better term—are Alfred E. Smith, former governor of New York; Bernard M. Baruch, financier; Clark Howell, newspaper publisher of Atlanta; and Alexander Legge, president of the International Harvester Company and former chairman of the Federal Farm Board.

The commission, which is said to be sponsored by "a huge financial and industrial group independent of the transportation lines themselves," will be charged with mobilizing public opinion in favor of remedial legislation for the correction of such evils as "tend to confiscate property, destroy the credit of the railroads, and wipe out savings represented by securities and insurance policies." This would include revision of present laws to permit adjustment of rates whenever deemed necessary, stabilization of credit by flexibility in earnings, elimination of unnecessary government interference, and measures to permit competition with other forms of transportation, such as trucks and buses.

RAILROADS TO MERGE

AFTER MORE THAN A DECADE OF NEGOTIATIONS, the effort to unify eastern transportation lines under four big systems seems at last to have been crowned with success. Last month the executives of the roads involved agreed upon a plan, which has been submitted to the Interstate Commerce Commission and is expected to be promptly approved. The plan, which does not include the New England lines (except the Boston & Albany), comprises the following systems: the New York Central, with a total mileage, after consolidation, of 7,900 and assets of $1,950,000,000; the Pennsylvania, with 13,034 miles and assets of $2,428,000,000; the Baltimore & Ohio, with 8,838 miles and $1,964,000,000 assets; and the Chesapeake & Ohio-Nickel Plate, with a mileage of 8,106 and assets of $1,746,000,000.

* * *

Approval of the unification of the Union Pacific System by absorption of the Oregon Short Line, the Oregon-Washington, the Los Angeles & Salt Lake, and the St. Joseph & Grand Island railroads, with a saving of approximately $600,000 a year in accounting costs, has been recommended by the examiner for the Interstate Commerce Commission.

Trans-Andean Railway Closed

The railway line across the Andes Mountains connecting Argentina and Chile—the only line of trade communication by land between the two republics—has been closed, owing to the prohibitive tariffs placed by both countries on imported products, reducing traffic to such proportions as to make it unprofitable. The principal source of revenue of the railway company—the transportation of cattle from Argentina to Chile—has thus been completely stopped.

TRADE REVIEW

AUGUST'S FOREIGN TRADE SHOWS GAINS

SMALL INCREASES OVER THE PREVIOUS MONTH were scored by both exports and imports for August, the favorable trade balance reaching approximately $18,000,000, against an import excess of $1,871,000 for the same month in 1931. Preliminary figures for August and the eight months ending August, 1932, with comparisons for 1931, are announced by the Department of Commerce as follows:

	August		Eight Months Ending August	
	1932	1931	1932	1931
Exports	$109,000,000	$164,808,000	$1,056,769,000	$1,664,331,000
Imports	91,000,000	166,679,000	917,105,000	1,450,198,000
Excess of exports	$ 18,000,000	$ *1,871,000	$ 139,664,000	$ 214,133,000

*Excess of imports.

EXPORTS OF MEAT PRODUCTS

EXPORTS OF MEAT, MEAT PRODUCTS, AND animal fats from the United States for the month of August, 1932 and 1931, as reported by the Department of Commerce, were as below (in pounds):

BEEF PRODUCTS

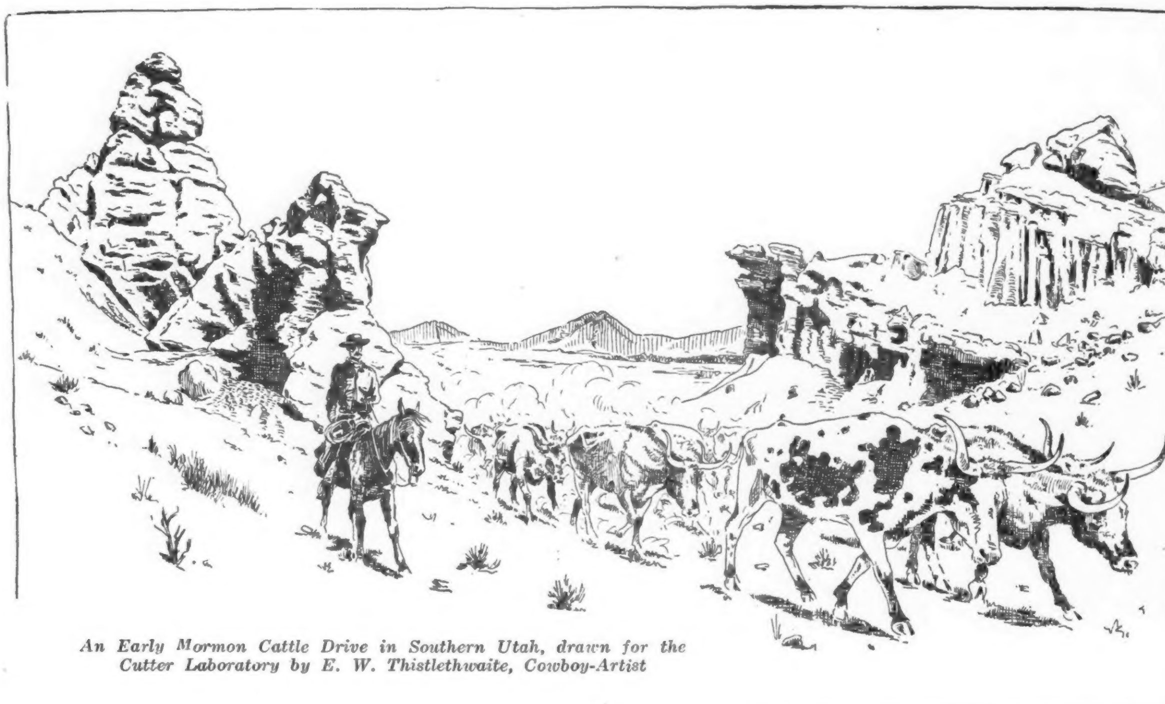
	August	
	1932	1931
Beef, fresh	104,274	123,692
Beef, pickled	973,197	1,569,897
Beef, canned	52,240	143,111
Oleo oil	4,071,290	2,659,148
Totals	5,201,001	4,495,848

PORK PRODUCTS

	August	
	1932	1931
Pork, fresh	253,974	407,261
Pork, pickled	1,014,206	1,577,424
Bacon	1,041,066	3,200,663
Cumberland sides	138,787	93,337
Hams and shoulders	4,123,283	6,622,530
Sausage, canned	36,434	97,139
Lard	34,972,745	34,510,460
Lard compounds	53,390	109,673
Neutral lard	551,394	767,871
Totals	42,185,297	47,386,358

Australia as a Supplier of Britain's Beef

If restrictions on foreign meats are put into effect as a result of the British Empire Conference in Ottawa, Canada, in August, and a preferred status is granted the Dominions, it is estimated by a British authority that Australia, "given every possible facility," in thirty years may produce enough beef to supplant Argentina in the English market. Which strikes us as a rather long shot.



An Early Mormon Cattle Drive in Southern Utah, drawn for the Cutter Laboratory by E. W. Thistlethwaite, Cowboy-Artist

THE MARKETS

LIVE-STOCK MARKET IN SEPTEMBER

BY JAMES E. POOLE

CHICAGO, ILL., October 1, 1932.

HULLABALOO OVER TEN-CENT CATTLE HAS obscured features of the market deserving serious consideration. Where one load of bullocks has sold in the $10 to $10.35 spread, a thousand loads have been appraised at anywhere from $7 to $9, and countless other loads at $5.50 to $6.75 per cwt. But conditions in steer trade have been prosperous, contrasted with events in the so-called butcher market, where cows and heifers abound, comparisons going back more than a quarter of a century. Toward the end of September, although $10.35 was still paraded as the top on the steer market, $4.50 to $6 took a large percentage of grass steers, grass heifers selling as low as $3 and cows as low as $2.50 per cwt. Few bulls were able to beat $3, a bologna selling close to a fat butcher bull.

Demand Centering on Steers with Weight

For this apparent inconsistency scant explanation has been forthcoming. Each day buyers rode hard in quest of "something good," to use stock-yard vernacular. Demand centered on weight, but did not extend to aged steers weighing 1,500 pounds up, disposing of the contention that popular demand has reverted to heavy cuts. Considerable complaint has come from feeding circles over the premium paid this season for heavy steers, ignoring the fact that it was legitimate. The trade can, and probably always will be able to, use the carcasses of a few heavy steers to satisfy a limited and gradually diminishing demand for kosher beef at New York, and Boston still uses a few big steers, although that outlet is gradually closing. Late in September a load of 1,661-pound Herefords reached Chicago from State Center, Iowa, where its departure had been made a town holiday. The salesman asked $10.50 per cwt., but got no bids on the day of arrival. Next day he reduced the price to $9.50, to be told that nowhere on this North American continent could a single car of such bullocks be sold readily. On the third day a Boston order was secured at $8.50, the cattle being taken under protest. Weighing 1,400 pounds, a $10.25 sale would have been possible. Evidently the day of the overdone, over-age steer has passed.

Abundance of Grassers Causes Wide Price Spread

However, finished bullocks weighing 1,000 to 1,400 pounds have been ready sale at $9.75 to $10.25, but on the September break fewer sales in that lofty price-level were registered. Plain heavy steers slipped 50 to 75 cents per cwt. late in September, $8.50 to $9 taking bullocks apparently good enough for any trade. A raft of $7.50 to $8.50 yearlings muddled that phase of the trade, many short-fed and warmed-up steers vending at $6.75 to $7.50. Explanation of a wide spread in values is found in the fact that fed cattle, weighing 1,100 pounds up, have not been so scarce in many years, while grassers abounded everywhere. The whole country was ransacked for cheap, light steers, the cotton, grass, dairy, and grain belts contributing. Thousands of little mongrel steers went to killers and feeders at prices ranging from $3.50 to $4.50, and even lower. Speculators ransacked the region below the Ohio River and east of the Mississippi, scrub cattle responding to the magnetic influence of real cash. Arkansas and Texas disgorged common cattle by the trainload, and, although tonnage was deficient, in the aggregate a substantial quantity of beef was passed along to distributors. Little southern and native steers selling at $3.25 to $4.50 accumulated at central markets, until the time-honored rebilling device was resorted to for the purpose of effecting a clearance. Feeders stretched several points, incidentally departing from custom by absorbing considerable numbers of these scalawag brutes, on the theory that they cost little and, with cheap feed, should at least pay their board bill, thin cattle having been acquired at $4 down, involving little initial expense.

Profusion of Native Heifers a Depressing Element

A raft of yearling heifers descended on the market, and, while the upper crust of the crop sold readily at $7.50 to $8.50 per cwt., $3 to $6 bought scads of grass and warmed-up heifers. As in the case of steers, weight commanded a premium. The heifer situation was aggravated by a grist of 450- to 500-pound natives selling at $5.50 to $6 per cwt. This type of animal could have been fed out, and possibly carried to a higher market. In any event, weight would have been made at low cost. Top steers and heifers were always $1.75 to $2 per cwt. apart, drawing adverse criticism from feeders expectant of a price parity. There may be justification for such criticism, yet the old law of supply and demand was operative, the bulk of supply running light in weight.

Low Values of Females Explained

Explanation of low prices of heifers and cows, actual and relative, may be difficult, but, as usual, there is a reason. Feeders bought heifer calves greedily last season and adopted the policy of stringing the finished product out this year, expectant of advancing prices in September and October. Realization that this was improbable cut an excessive number loose during a brief period, to the detriment of prices, the marketing situation being aggravated by an army of warmed-up heifers, fed corn on grass, that figured low in the beef. A swarm of dairy heifers contributed to the confusion. As a result of a favorable season, many of these little heifers carried excessive fat, prompting retailers to complain of waste. A large percentage of the fed yearlings were

mixed steers and heifers selling anywhere from \$7.25 to \$8.75, according to quality and condition, congesting coolers and distributive channels with that type of beef. For canning and cutting cows there was always a reliable \$1.50 to \$2.50 market, beef and cutting cows selling so close together as to arouse protest. In actual value, cows selling at \$3 to \$3.25 per cwt. were worth \$1 to \$1.50 per cwt. more, measured by cutting-cow values.

Several Factors Responsible

The why and wherefore of this condition is susceptible of explanation. Cheap light steers, both native and southwestern, have been in large measure responsible. Such cattle, selling at \$3.25 to \$4.75, were actually cheaper in the beef than cows costing \$2.50 to \$3 per cwt. Canner product can be stored until supply changes sufficiently to develop a demand, but the beef of cows costing \$2.75 to \$3.50 per cwt. must go into immediate consumption under present conditions, regardless of what it realizes. Freezing low-grade beef in large quantities is no longer in vogue, as carrying charges are burdensome, even at present low cost of such cattle. Contention is made that grading beef acts to restrict the sale of low-grade product, consumers looking to brands for assurance of merit. Another assigned reason for low cow prices is that the industrial element lacks the purchasing power essential to move the product in quantity sufficient to clear distributors' decks, especially in competition with cheap pork, lamb, eggs, and poultry. Still another, and not illogical, reason is that branding cow beef for what it actually is militates against the sale of the product, consumers demanding steer meat. This may be far-fetched and does not apply to the cheaper grades, which are not subject to inspection and branding.

Retail Cost Remaining High

Whatever may be the cause of low cow and grass-heifer prices this season, the fact remains that prices have been absurd, even when purchasing power is considered. Beef costing 7 to 8 cents per pound in the carcass should have reached ultimate consumers at prices low enough to stimulate consumption. Retail cost, it must be admitted, has been high, especially when measured by hoof values. The market situation is likely to change overnight when the pasture gathering season terminates, speculators cease ransacking the country for low-grade steers, and cold weather increases demand for the cheaper grades of beef. Packingtown is going into the winter with limited stocks of frozen beef, and the time is not far distant when the recent wide gap will close up perceptibly.

Weight Premium Due to Scarcity of Heavy Steers

Reverting to the weight problem, it may be stated, without fear of successful contradiction, that the premium paid for avoirdupois recently has been due solely to scarcity of long-fed heavy steers. Back last spring, when liquidation dislodged thousands of similar bullocks at \$7 to \$7.50 per cwt., the stage was set for the subsequent \$3 advance; but had any considerable number of finished 1,200- to 1,400-pound bullocks been available during the late summer and early fall season, it is highly probable that prices would have ruled \$1 to \$2 per cwt. lower. Admitting that heavy cattle have held a premium over qualitied yearlings in comparable condition, they merely occupied their proper relative position; and whenever that happens both types benefit. Advancing prices of heavy cattle exert an upward pull on yearlings and light cattle, but when big bullocks run into trouble everything else wearing a hide is depressed.

Hog Performance Disappointing

Hogs have not lived up to their advertisement. By the middle of September the new crop heralded its approach, light hogs leading the slump. Packers, loaded with product, resisted the decline at intervals, but were forced to back away. Increasing receipts of new-crop shotes weighing 170 to 230 pounds indicated plenty of hogs to come, and the fact that many of these young hogs lacked finish suggested an effort by growers to get away from what is known as the "fall break." However, with top hogs selling in Chicago at \$4.20 to \$4.40 per cwt., and drove cost below \$4, an old-fashioned drive to put prices on a winter basis is improbable, if not impossible. Enough is known, however, to silence the bull claque that had been "talking" five-cent hogs. Last winter packers went into the packing season at the highest prices of the period, finding themselves loaded to the guards with product when the debacle occurred late in the winter. On this occasion their intention is to start low, taking advantage of any possible appreciation later to bag inventory profits. A \$3.50 to \$4 Chicago market for hogs during the early part of the winter is probable.

Will Furnish Market for Corn

On this basis the crop will realize scant net revenue, but will furnish a market for corn and small grains that could not be marketed otherwise. The outcome of the season will be determined by how many hogs the country has concealed in its capacious sleeve. In some quarters a short crop, compared with the previous season, is advertised. Doubtless considerable mortality occurred subsequent to farrowing last spring, but to offest this are a restricted demand for product, a narrow export outlet, and an abundance of cheap substitutes.

Lamb Trade Fails to Come up to Expectations

Lamb trade has been a distinct disappointment. By the end of September the Chicago market was down to a \$5 to \$5.50 basis on the bulk of native and western lambs, marking the low point for the season. Feeding lambs had advanced to a \$4.75 to \$5.25 basis, selling closer to fat lambs than at any previous time. Few fat lambs sold above \$6 during the month, the bulk cashing at \$5.25 to \$5.75. Sheep held in the same \$1.50 to \$2 market for the bulk of ewes, trade in breeding ewes being practically suspended. Denver has jumped into the first rank among sheep markets, receiving over 60,000 on one day in September, and, owing to proximity of northern Colorado feeding-grounds, is very likely to hold its prominence.

MARKET PROSPECTS

J. E. P.

WITHIN THE NEXT SIXTY DAYS A NEW DEAL will be made in live-stock trade. The few choice, long-fed steers that have been earning spectacular prices will disappear from the picture, western grassers will be in, and killers will run into a crop of warmed-up steers, lacking beef yields and quality, that will sell considerably below present levels. That trend is already in evidence, plain and warmed-up cattle weighing 1,200 pounds up going at \$7.50 to \$8.50, and overweight steers—1,500 to 1,600 pounds—around \$8.50. Despite enthusiasm over the big steer, it remains as dangerous a proposition for the feeder as ever. Spreads between low-grade and other steers will narrow, and the gap between female cattle and steers will undergo a similar change. What happens in the stocker market will depend on the liberality, or otherwise, of recently organized government financial set-ups for lubrication of the path of the cattleman. Contention is made, and it is reasonable, that many cattle have been acquired by feeders at prices that will insure narrow spreads in the finality of the operation. Feeders have cheap corn in their favor, but little else. Theoretically, cheap corn benefits the cattle-grower by increasing demand for stockers; but all signs are reputed to fail in dry weather, and while there is scant precedent for depression-period procedure, it is a time for caution. Consumer purchasing power is at low ebb, with little prospect of revival during the winter period. Whatever price developments may be, beef scarcity is impossible. Statistics concerning stock-cattle investment are meager and unreliable, as the direct movement from pasture to feed-lot has been heavy recently. Admittedly a large percentage of the cattle acquired have been light-weight, but, with corn plentiful and cheap, such steers can be conditioned with celerity. In their present frame of mind, feeders are disposed to take the short route to market, as an increasing

proportion of merely warmed-up steers in September indicated.

Although the northwestern grazing area has gathered little beef this year, it has contributed generously to the stocker movement, and from all over the southern area has come an interminable bovine procession, carrying a large percentage of inferior and nondescript stockers, which feeders have taken on to reduce first cost. Presumably, with low-cost feed, these cattle will get fat by the latter part of the winter, furnishing killers with a liberal supply of what is known as "phoney" yearling product—light-weight, but fat. Such steers have cost feeders from $4 down, and on a margin of $2 per cwt. would be profitable. The extent to which they have been installed by feeders is conjectural, but there will be enough of them to go around. So-called native cattle will be fed by the thousand, few of them being susceptible of development into "good" cattle. Corn is worth 17 to 18 cents per bushel, but there is no adequate market for it on that basis, so that only by conversion into meat can a market be assured. If it were possible to place in feeders' hands a sufficient number of cattle to consume the vast quantity of coarse grains and roughage which the country holds, as suggested by President Hoover recently in an appeal to bankers, fat cattle would sell appreciably lower, as only diminished slaughter this year has enabled prices to stand up. Consensus of trade opinion is that winter prices for the bulk of fed steers will range from $5.50 to $7 per cwt., with a few specialties above the latter figure. Hides are weak at the recent advance, fats are cheap, and beef must carry the load.

Another potent influence on cattle prices is relatively high cost of beef to consumers, especially in the large cities. Such industrial centers as during the period of so-called prosperity took a heavy beef tonnage weekly have reduced consumption to the lowest volume in several decades. Demand for high-cost beef—the product of such steers as have been selling in the $9 to $10.25 range—is restricted. A 10 per cent increase in such cattle might have put them on an $8 to $8.25 basis, as competition is narrow. On the other hand, winter demand for the cheaper grades of cattle should improve, as consumer objection to grass product will be eliminated. Even dairy-bred steers, if well conditioned, meet consumer requirements for cherry-red lean and white-fat meat.

Winter cattle prices will be determined in no small measure by developments at industrial centers, cost of pork, and, in a less degree, ovine product. If industry revives, employment expands, rail tonnage increases, and psychology improves with the turn of the year, cattle prices will be benefited. John Sudduth, the most extensive cattle-feeder in Illinois, who handles low- and medium-grade steers, remarked recently: "When the steel industry picks up, we shall have a healthier steer market. Steel-corporation tonnage is the best indicator I know of." And it is an open secret that the "corporation," as it is known, is doing little at present. If the new crop of fed cattle finds a winter market that pays for the feed which cattle consume, leaving feeders a reasonable margin, stocker replacement will continue all winter. Other than calves and yearlings installed for a year's development, the great bulk of the cattle put on feed recently are intended for the earliest possible market, and whenever killers bid prices that make a profitable turn-over possible, they will be unloaded. Few feeders will carry steers weighing over 1,100 pounds into additional weight; and, unless they possess quality, that policy is sensible.

Passing of fall gathering of grass cows and heifers will operate to the advantage of cheaper grades of steers, as there is no seasonal supply of low-grade beef in freezers. Industrial pay-rolls may be slim, but the trite expression, "Everybody is broke," will not stand scrutiny. Doubtless a considerable proportion of those still employed are forced to economize, and to a certain extent beef is a luxury, but a heavy tonnage is being absorbed weekly. During September the four principal packers handled over 100,000 cattle weekly, reducing them to a substantial beef tonnage that may have moved tardily into distribution channels, but, so far as the great bulk was concerned, went into consumption.

Beef is still the costliest animal food on the list, as retail prices have been maintained, public eating-house charges showing scant reduction compared with the "high time." This is partly explained by the fact that rents and labor are still on a lofty plane, and that the policy of charging all the traffic will bear is still followed—probably on the theory that "things are getting better." If beef could reach the ultimate consumer at prices corresponding to new prices of live cattle, consumption would be automatically expanded.

All speculation—and it is rife—concerning winter cattle prices will be affected by conditions in other spheres which cannot even be conjectured. Other foods will be plentiful and cheap, and in a pinch people can cut the meat portion of their diet to one meal daily.

Low hog prices will be repeated this winter. The market is starting on a lower basis than last year, which may obviate the debacle of 1932, but by the end of September average cost of shipper and packer droves at Chicago was well below $4, new-crop hogs were reporting in steadily increasing numbers, exports were contracting, and domestic consumption of both fresh and cured meats left much to be desired. Prediction that winter slaughter will run consid-

erably below the previous corresponding period may be verified when the crop is in, but no scarcity is possible, and by next March packers' cellars will contain an ample supply of cured and frozen pork, also lard. Packer policy is to avoid freezing beef and lamb, but in the case of pork there is no alternative. Last winter the high-cost portion of the hog crop was put away early; on this occasion that order will be reversed; otherwise packers will face receiverships.

Winter lamb production will be lighter than last year. Assuming that tonnage will be reduced, fed lambs should sell above the recent $5 market; otherwise feeders will need red ink in their accounting. To a certain extent, lamb gets competition from pork; yet it frequently displays surprising independence of that trade. A $6 to $6.50 winter market for fat lambs is reasonable expectancy, and even the $1.50 to $2 ewe may advance $1 per cwt. as the winter works along.

Despite the "things-are-getting-better" anvil chorus, meats of all kinds are handicapped by existing industrial and economic conditions, and will continue to be during the coming winter. A few actually high cattle sales are easily explained by scarcity of that particular kind. If hog and lamb prices could be advanced, cattle—especially the underdogs of the trade—would be substantially benefited. And that is possible.

LIVE STOCK AT STOCK-YARDS

APPENDED ARE TABLES SHOWING RECEIPTS, shipments, and slaughter of live stock at sixty-one markets for the month of August, 1932, compared with August, 1931, and for the eight months ending August, 1932 and 1931:

RECEIPTS

	August		Eight Months Ending August	
	1932	1931	1932	1931
Cattle*	1,124,610	1,302,333	7,424,362	8,374,248
Calves	481,469	519,403	3,617,662	3,988,685
Hogs	2,405,099	2,454,282	23,934,198	25,387,529
Sheep	2,919,252	3,269,988	18,941,438	20,173,785

TOTAL SHIPMENTS†

	August		Eight Months Ending August	
	1932	1931	1932	1931
Cattle*	506,186	583,435	2,916,650	3,466,679
Calves	150,128	175,427	1,062,448	1,186,964
Hogs	739,142	1,045,367	7,836,162	9,734,577
Sheep	1,456,715	1,733,852	8,527,953	9,631,497

STOCKER AND FEEDER SHIPMENTS

	August		Eight Months Ending August	
	1932	1931	1932	1931
Cattle*	246,576	231,458	999,132	1,174,409
Calves	32,937	29,736	163,964	165,612
Hogs	21,326	49,380	230,908	303,673
Sheep	460,252	718,168	1,336,688	2,006,897

LOCAL SLAUGHTER

	August		Eight Months Ending August	
	1932	1931	1932	1931
Cattle*	598,199	670,557	4,428,437	4,803,250
Calves	326,015	335,505	2,531,535	2,787,744
Hogs	1,657,747	1,397,975	16,075,293	15,631,357
Sheep	1.446,779	1,474,008	10,405,039	10,384,117

*Exclusive of calves. †Including stockers and feeders.

COMPARATIVE LIVE-STOCK PRICES

BELOW ARE FIGURES SHOWING PRICES ON THE principal classes and grades of live stock at Chicago on October 3, 1932, compared with September 1, 1932, and October 1, 1931 (per 100 pounds):

	Oct. 3, 1932	Sept. 1, 1932	Oct. 1, 1931
SLAUGHTER STEERS:			
Choice (1,100 to 1,500 lbs.)	$ 8.75-10.25	$ 9.00-10.00	$ 9.50-10.40
Good	7.25- 9.00	7.50- 9.25	7.50- 9.75
Choice (900 to 1,100 lbs.)	8.50- 9.75	8.50- 9.60	9.25-10.00
Good	7.00- 8.75	7.25- 9.00	7.75- 9.25
Medium (800 lbs. up)	5.75- 7.50	6.00- 7.75	5.75- 8.00
FED YEARLING STEERS:			
Good to Choice	7.00- 9.50	7.00- 9.25	8.00-10.00
HEIFERS:			
Good to Choice	5.75- 8.25	6.00- 8.00	7.00- 9.75
COWS:			
Good to Choice	3.25- 4.50	3.50- 5.25	4.50- 6.00
CALVES:			
Good to Choice	4.25- 5.50	4.50- 6.50	....
FEEDER AND STOCKER STEERS:			
Good to Choice	5.25- 6.75	5.50- 6.75	5.00- 6.75
Common to Medium	3.50- 5.25	3.25- 5.50	3.25- 5.00
HOGS:			
Medium Weights (200 to 250 lbs.)	4.00- 4.15	4.40- 4.85	5.50- 5.75
LAMBS:			
Medium to Choice (92 lbs. down)	4.00- 5.75	4.75- 6.75	5.00- 7.65
EWES:			
Medium to Choice	2.75- 4.00	1.50- 2.50	....

THE DENVER MARKET

BY W. N. FULTON

DENVER, COLO., October 3, 1932.

CATTLE SUPPLY AT DENVER LATE IN SEPTEMber was not so heavy as a year ago, due largely to the fine weather prevailing in the mountain districts and the excellent feed available on the range. Fed steers, selling around $7 to $8.50 at the close of August, were bringing about the same prices at the end of September. Strictly choice, well-

finished steers would probably bring a little above $8.50, but comparatively few of this class are coming to market. Grass steers, selling at $4 to $5.25 early in September, were bringing about the same prices at the close. Fed heifers that sold largely at $6.50 to $7.50 early in September were bringing around $6.25 to $7.40 at the close of the month. Grass heifers were selling at $4 to $5 at the close of the month, whereas the same grades were bringing from $4 to $5.25 a month earlier. Good to choice grass cows, moving at $2.75 to $4.15 early in the month, were bringing around $2.50 to $3.75 at the close. Choice cows and heifers mixed sold up to $4 late in the month.

Feeders and stockers found a fairly ready outlet toward the close of the month. Plain to good stocker and feeder steers were selling a month ago at $3 to $6.25, and the same grades were bringing around $3 to $6 at the close of September. Most of the good feeder steers were selling at $4.75 to $5.75.

Dealers look for a liberal supply of cattle throughout the fall shipping season, and rather anticipate larger supplies late this fall than were received a year ago. Just what the market will do is a question that would be hard to answer. With the Reconstruction Finance Corporation credit facilities ready to function, there is reason to believe that most feeders and producers will be able to secure the necessary financing to continue their operations. The result should be a good demand for feeder stock and a none too heavy supply, which will probably result in a fairly satisfactory market.

Hogs

Hog trade was active during September, although the market did not behave so well, from the producer's standpoint, as it did during the previous month. Late-month declines carried top hogs down to $3.90—around 25 to 30 cents below the tops on the closing session of August. A good grade of butcher hogs is selling at $3.75 to $3.85, with plainer kinds at $3.25 to $3.50. Packing sows have been selling throughout the month around $2 to $3, but at the close very few got above $2.75.

The trade is looking for some strengthening of hog prices in the not distant future, and the supply is not expected to be excessive during the fall months.

Sheep and Lambs

Nearly half a million sheep and lambs were received on the Denver market during September, the supply being slightly heavier than for the same month of last year. It is safe to predict that at least a million more will arrive before the close of the year. In such a contingency, the market will have received over 3,000,000 sheep and lambs during 1932—the largest number by more than half a million head ever coming to this market during one year. Despite the heavy supplies, trade was active, and everything offered was disposed of readily from day to day, at prices well in line with, and even higher than, those at other points.

Good fat lambs were selling at the close of August around $5.60. Prices fluctuated somewhat during September, and during the mid-month sessions top lambs sold up to $6. Late declines, however, carried the best lambs down to $5.15. Ewes that were selling from $1 to $1.50 at the opening of the month were bringing from $1 to $1.75 at the close, while breeder ewes sold as high as $3 per cwt.

Feeder lambs were in strong demand throughout the month, selling around $4.25 to $4.50 early in September. The same grades were bringing from $4.35 to $4.85 at the close of the month.

Liberal supplies of lambs are now coming to this market from Colorado points, with large shipments from many of the other western states. Indications are that the demand will continue strong for all sheep and lambs during the next several months. All of the big packers have buyers stationed here, and are taking everything offered in the way of fat sheep and lambs. Feeder-buyers are also active. As the season advances, the demand for feeder lambs is expected to broaden.

While the northern Colorado feeding district will probably feed slightly fewer lambs this year than last, it is expected that the available supply will be considerably decreased, due to the fact that the lamb crop in western states is of much less volume than in 1931, and a larger percentage of the lambs from the range are said to be fat.

Horses and Mules

Horse trade was fairly active during the month. The regular bi-weekly auction sales were largely attended, and, following each sale, large numbers of horses were sent out from this market to many eastern and southern states. The demand is especially good for cotton mules, which are selling around $75 to $85 for choice grades, with prices ranging down to $50 for medium kinds. Good farm chunks are bringing from $50 to $90 a head, and good heavy work-horses from $90 up. Plain-quality horses are selling all the way down to $25 a head and below.

WHOLESALE MEAT PRICES

WHOLESALE PRICES ON WESTERN DRESSED meats at Chicago on September 30, 1932, compared with September 1, 1932, and October 1, 1931, were as below (per 100 pounds):

FRESH BEEF AND VEAL

	Sept. 30, 1932	Sept. 1, 1932	Oct. 1, 1931
STEERS (700 lbs. up):			
Choice	$14.00-15.00	$14.00-15.50	$14.00-15.50
Good	12.50-14.00	13.00-14.00	13.00-14.00
STEERS (550 to 700 lbs.):			
Choice	13.00-14.50	13.50-15.00	15.50-16.50
Good	11.50-13.00	12.50-13.50	14 50-15.50
YEARLING STEERS:			
Choice	13.00-14.50	13.50-15.00	16.50-18.00
Good	11.50-13.00	12.50-13.50	15.50-17.00
COWS:			
Good	8.00- 9.00	8.00- 9.00	8.50-10.00
VEALERS:			
Choice	9.00-10.00	10.00-11.00	14.00-16.00
Good	8.00- 9.00	9.00-10.00	13.00-15.00

FRESH LAMB AND MUTTON

LAMBS (45 lbs. down):			
Choice	$10.00-12.00	$13.50-15.00	$14.00-16.00
Good	10.00-11.00	12.50-13.50	13.00-15.00
EWES:			
Good	4.00- 5.00	6.00- 7.00	6.00- 8.00

FRESH PORK CUTS

LOINS:			
8-12 lbs. average	$10.00-12.00	$12.00-14.00	$16.00-19.00

HOLDINGS OF FROZEN AND CURED MEATS

BELOW IS A SUMMARY OF STORAGE HOLDINGS of frozen and cured meats, lard, creamery butter, and eggs on September 1, 1932, as compared with September 1, 1931, and average holdings on that date for the past five years (in pounds):

Commodity	Sept. 1, 1932	Sept. 1, 1931	Five-Year Average
Frozen beef	13,097,000	24,061,000	26,692,000
Cured beef*	11,473,000	14,989,000	15,574,000
Lamb and mutton	1,068,000	1,975,000	2,421,000
Frozen pork	121,114,000	129,571,000	157,008,000
Dry salt pork*	109,428,000	153,507,000	149,167,000
Pickled pork*	347,941,000	311,985,000	356,597,000
Miscellaneous	45,907,000	66,334,000	69,992,000
Totals	650,028,000	702,422,000	777,451,000
Lard	103,169,000	96,047,000	141,981,000
Butter	107,431,000	104,678,000	143,319,000
Eggs (in cases)	5,955,000	9,016,000	9,506,000
Frozen eggs (cases)	2,654,000	3,151,000	2,725,000

*Cured or in process of cure.

"I like THE PRODUCER. I have taken it almost since the time of the first issue. Its arrival at my home always means an evening of enjoyment."—BERT HASKETT, Phoenix, Arizona.

FEEDSTUFFS

AT TEXAS POINTS, ON OCTOBER 4, COTTONSEED cake and meal were selling at $13 per ton. On October 1, hay prices at Omaha were as follows: New alfalfa—No. 1 extra leafy, $11; No. 2 extra leafy, $10 to $11; No. 1, $9 to $10; No. 2 leafy, $8 to $9; No. 2, $7.50 to $8.50; No. 3 leafy, $7 to $8; No. 3, $6 to $7; sample, $4.50 to $5.50; upland prairie—No. 1, $9 to $9.50; No. 2, $8 to $9; No. 3, $6 to $7; sample, $4.50 to $5.50; midland prairie—No. 1, $8 to $9; No. 2, $7 to $8; sample, $4.50 to $5.50.

Gigantic Dam to Be Constructed Across Volga

Artificial irrigation of the central Volga region, where droughts are frequent and severe, has been decided upon by the Soviet government. The plan, involving one of the greatest engineering projects in history, comprises the construction of a dam across the river, ninety feet high and nearly two miles in length, to supply water for 10,000,000 acres of grain land. The project is estimated to cost about 1,500,000,000 rubles (approximately $750,000,000 at par) and to take four years to complete. The seriousness of the drought which devastated large areas of Russia in 1931 may be realized from an official statement, recently issued, estimating the loss at 390,000,000 bushels of grain.

FOREIGN

NOTES FROM FOREIGN LANDS

Russian Wheat Crop Short

The Russian wheat crop is reported as falling far short of the official plan.

Argentina to Take Annual Live-Stock Census

It has been decided henceforth to take an annual live-stock census in Argentina, the date to be July 1.

Ireland Increases Bacon Duty

The Irish Free State has imposed a tariff of 84 shillings per hundredweight on imports of bacon, or about 13 cents a pound at present exchange.

Americans in Canada

More than half of the Americans residing abroad live in Canada. On January 1, 1932, there were 223,858 citizens of the United States who had taken up their permanent abode in the Dominion.

New Export Route for Canadian Cattle

Cattle from the prairie provinces of Canada—Manitoba, Saskatchewan, and Alberta—may soon be shipped to the British Isles via Churchill, the new seaport terminus of the Hudson Bay Railroad, it is reported.

English-Irish Tariff War

As a result of the action of the Irish Free State in withholding payments of the land annuities (money, amounting to about $20,000,000 a year, owed to Great Britain for taking over the big estates and parceling out the land to Irish farmers), the British Parliament has passed a bill putting a duty of 20 per cent ad valorem on agricultural products imported from the Free State. As a counter-move, De Valera's government has placed a tariff on a number of British goods.

Assistance to Dutch Dairying Industry

A measure has been passed by the Parliament of Holland providing for the payment of a bonus to dairy farmers, to be raised through the control of the sale of margarine and a tax on edible fats and oils.

Latvia Subsidizes Hog Industry

As a means of developing her swine industry, the government of Latvia is guaranteeing minimum prices to farmers engaged in raising hogs suitable for the bacon export trade. If prices at the London market fall below the guaranteed prices, the government pays the difference.

Dutch Farmers Cannot Give Pigs Away

This story comes from Holland: A farmer took his three hogs to market to trade them for groceries. No one would have them. He then craftily decided to put them in the pen of a neighbor, to escape the expense of feeding them. When he returned home, he found eight pigs in his own pen.

Kangaroos Driving out Sheep

An area of 5,000 acres in western Victoria has been occupied by 2,000 kangaroos, starving out the sheep, breaking through fences, and bowling over lambs with flying feet or swishing tails. It is against the law to kill kangaroos in Victoria, but sheepmen have appealed to the state to have the ban lifted.

Live-Stock Slaughter in South America

Argentine cattle slaughter in 1931 declined 13.6 per cent as against 1930, and sheep and lamb slaughter 8.3 per cent. In 1931 a total of 3,261,119 cattle were killed (3,776,042 in 1930); sheep and lambs, 5,989,285 (6,532,778). Uruguayan slaughter showed similar decreases: cattle, 1931, 901,446 (1,108,050 in 1930); sheep and lambs, 1,647,186 (2,406,890).

Russia Curtails Meat Program

Procurements of live stock from individual and collective farms in Soviet Russia for the last nine months of 1932 have been reduced 50 per cent, or from 1,414,000 to 716,000 metric tons, live weight. After procurement quotas have been fulfilled, surplus stock may be sold in the open market. All restrictions on the killing and sale of stock have been revoked.

Farm Aid in Germany

In an effort to relieve the distress of German farmers, a series of new regulations has been promulgated by the government, including import quotas on cattle for slaughter, bacon, lard, butter, and a number of other agricultural commodities. A reduction of 2 per cent in the interest rate on long-term mortgages for the next two years is also provided for.

British Meat Imports

During the twelve months ending May 31, 1932, the following quantities of meat were imported into Great Britain and Northern Ireland, as compared with the previous fiscal year (in tons):

	1931-32	1930-31
Beef	624,700	643,000
Mutton and lamb	356,500	336,800
Pork	661,100	596,900
Others (incl. rabbits)	42,300	34,700
Totals	1,684,600	1,611,400

"I think a lot of THE PRODUCER and enjoy reading it."
—CHARLES MACE, Eagle, Ida.

THE BULLETIN BOARD

RESULTS OF COYOTE FOOD STUDIES

The laboratory recently established at Denver by the Bureau of Biological Survey for carrying on technical studies of the food habits of predatory mammals has just announced the first results of analyses of the food of 340 coyotes killed in fourteen western states. All months were represented, though April to July only scantily.

The investigators identified rabbit meat in 161 of the 340 stomachs. Miscellaneous rodents were taken by 119 coyotes, and carrion by 103. Items of food next in order of frequency were the various kinds of domestic stock, including sheep or goat, found 63 times; calf, colt, or hog, 10; and poultry, 14 times. Remains of deer were found in 21 stomachs, game birds in 5, and other birds in 23. Twenty-one coyotes had eaten insects. Snakes, horned toads, fishes, and skunks were minor items. Wild fruits had been eaten by 7 coyotes, and cultivated fruits by 3.

MEAT STAMP IS HARMLESS

Inquiries to the Department of Agriculture concern the practice of butchers in trimming the familiar purple federal inspection stamp from fresh meat at the time of sale. This is entirely unnecessary, department specialists explain, as the fluid used in marking meat is made from ingredients as harmless as fruit juices.

Formerly labels were attached to the meat that had been federally inspected and passed, but this proved expensive and otherwise unsatisfactory. The purple stamp provides a safe, clear, and permanent mark of inspection for the benefit of the meat-buyer.

HEAVY CURING OF PORK FOR EXPORT UNNECESSARY

Discovery that American Wiltshire sides have been more heavily cured than apparently was necessary may be important in helping the United States regain part of its British pork market, according to the Department of Agriculture.

To study the reaction of the English market to our product, and to compare the Wiltshire sides from American hogs with those of other countries, the department shipped to England seventy sides from hogs raised in Montana. There an experienced British buyer selected four of the sides, as well as four each from Denmark, Poland, Ireland, and Sweden, and shipped them to this country, where they were thoroughly analyzed. The Danish sides had the least salt. The American sides had a moderate amount of salt in the shoulder, but relatively more in the other cuts, and in certain respects were quite unpalatable on account of excessive saltiness.

Since all the sides of foreign origin arrived here in good condition, some with less curing than the American sides, it appears that the heavy curing of the American meat was unnecesary, as well as undesirable.

MEAT-MARKET EXPENSES

In a recent survey of meat markets it was found that, in the 356 stores investigated, important factors common to those successfully operated were excellent display and wide variety of products, and an effort to maintain a reputation for first-class meats. Gross margin averaged 23.6 per cent of net sales. Expenses of a typical market, averaging 20.9 per cent of sales, were distributed as follows: salaries and wages, 62 per cent; delivery, 12.8; rent, 8.5; refrigeration, 5.3; wrapping and laundry, 3.5; depreciation and bad debts, 2.1; light and power, 1.5; taxes, insurance, etc., 4.3. This establishment made a net profit of 2.5 per cent.

HEAVY TOLL OF EROSION

The plant food removed from the fields and pastures of America every year by erosion is at least twenty-one times more than that removed by the crops harvested, according to the Department of Agriculture. Plant food taken by crops can be restored in the form of fertilizer, but that taken by erosion cannot be restored, because this ruinous process takes the whole body of the soil, plant food and all.

NUMBER OF PUREBRED ANIMALS

Distribution of 2,963,007 purebred animals on the 490,088 farms reporting on April 1, 1930, was as follows: cattle, 2,149,363 head on 393,708 farms; hogs, 357,079 head on 65,558 farms; and sheep, 456,565 head on 30,822 farms. There was one purebred head of cattle for each 22 of the total number of cattle, one purebred hog for each 147, and one purebred sheep for each 107.

DOLLAR'S PURCHASING POWER

Taking the year 1926 as par, the Department of Labor has assembled figures showing the purchasing power of our dollar, expressed in terms of wholesale prices, for the past forty-two years, says the *Agricultural Review*. The figures are as follows:

1890	$1.799	1911	$1.541
1891	1.792	1912	1.447
1892	1.916	1913	1.433
1893	1.873	1914	1.468
1894	2.088	1915	1.439
1895	2.049	1916	1.170
1896	2.151	1917	0.851
1897	2.146	1918	0.762
1898	2.062	1919	0.722
1899	1.916	1920	0.648
1900	1.783	1921	1.025
1901	1.808	1922	1.034
1902	1.698	1923	0.994
1903	1.678	1924	1.019
1904	1.675	1925	0.966
1905	1.664	1926	1.000
1906	1.613	1927	1.043
1907	1.534	1928	1.024
1908	1.590	1929	1.036
1909	1.479	1930	1.159
1910	1.420	1931	1.406

SHEEP TO SUIT IN TWO HOURS AND TEN

The American sheep-to-suit record of six hours and four minutes established by a Bradford man in Pennsylvania some years ago was badly beaten recently by the firm of John Crowther & Sons, Ltd., of Milnsbridge, England, with a time of two hours and ten minutes, we read in the *Pacific Co-operative Wool Grower*. The entire district celebrated the event.

Ten sheep were brought into the millyard and shorn in eight minutes. In seventeen minutes more the wool was dyed and dried. Carding, spinning, weaving, and finishing took one hour and fourteen minutes, including the time necessary to deliver the cloth to the tailors. Forty men and women worked on the suit, entirely completing the suit in thirty minutes.

ROUND THE RANGE

PREMIUM LIST AT PACIFIC INTERNATIONAL

Premiums amounting to approximately $75,000 will be awarded winners at the Pacific International Live Stock Exposition, to be held in Portland, Oregon, October 15-22, according to an announcement made by General Manager O. M. Plummer. The cash prizes are divided approximately as follows: $8,800 in the beef-cattle division; $8,700 in the dairy-cattle division; $5,000 in the sheep division; $3,000 in the hog division; $5,000 in the horse division; $4,500 for all classes of fat cattle, sheep, and hogs; $10,000 for the best bare-back bronc-riding, calf-roping, bronc-riding, steer-wrestling, and steer-riding at the McCarty-Elliott Rodeo—a spectacular new feature at the Pacific International; $5,000 for Boys' and Girls' 4-H Clubs; $2,750 in intercollegiate and vocational education judging contests. There will also be prize awards for the land-products show.

CUT IN NEVADA LIVE-STOCK TAXES

Hearings before the Nevada State Board of Equalization, at which the cattle- and sheepmen were represented by Vernon Metcalf, secretary of the Nevada Land and Live Stock Association, have resulted in a considerable reduction in live-stock taxes. For the current year the valuation on stock cattle has been lowered from $25 to $20 per head, and on sheep from $4 to $2.40. For 1933 the tax valuation has been fixed at $22.50 for cattle and $3 for sheep.

PACIFIC HOUSEWIVES INDORSE OLEOMARGARINE

Indorsement of oleomargarine as a food deserving of consideration in these difficult times was given last month by the San Francisco Housewives' League. Miss Frances V. Meeker, president of the league, in a statement issued declares it to be a mistake to classify margarine as a "butter substitute." The article, in her opinion, should stand on its own merits as a food product, the same as any other agricultural commodity.

Newspapers of San Francisco have recently criticized the exorbitant license fees required of retailers handling oleomargarine in many counties of that state, ranging from $140 to $600 a year. Such fees are characterized as not taxes at all, but a plain attempt to prohibit the sale by indirection.

RANGE AND LIVE-STOCK CONDITIONS

Of the report on range and live-stock conditions in seventeen states at the beginning of September, sent out by the Denver office of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics, the following is a brief summary:

Arizona.—Ranges poor to good in north; good supply of feed in central and southern areas; live stock in good condition.

California.—Ranges above average for this time of year; feed and stock water unsatisfactory in a few localities; most stock in good to excellent condition.

Colorado.—Hot, dry weather has damaged ranges in east, where hay is short; western ranges carry good supply of feed; cattle and lambs in good flesh.

Idaho.—Range feed ample, with good prospects for fall and winter; field pastures excellent; live stock in good condition.

Kansas (western).—Most pastures burned brown and furnishing little feed; cattle below average condition.

Montana.—Range feed supply generally good, with a few dry spots; hay and other feeds ample; live stock doing well.

Nebraska (western).—Range feed plentiful, except in parts of southwest; hay supplies ample; cattle doing well.

Nevada.—Ranges carry good supply of feed; winter ranges good; large crop of hay; live stock in excellent condition.

New Mexico.—Range feed fair to good, except in central and northeastern sections; cattle and sheep in good condition.

North Dakota.—Range damaged by dry weather, but feed fair to good; hay generally ample; some shrink in cattle.

Oklahoma.—Ranges in east and northwest dry, elsewhere good; feed ample, except in dry areas; cattle in good flesh.

Oregon.—Fall ranges good, but rain needed in some places; hay crop large; live stock in good flesh.

South Dakota (western).—Range feed and hay generally abundant; live stock in very good condition.

Texas.—Range feed above average, with good supply of moisture, except in north; prospects favorable for fall and winter; large crop of grains and rough feed; cattle and sheep in excellent flesh.

Utah.—Range feed generally good, after dry spell; large crop of hay and other feeds; live stock in good condition.

Washington.—Ranges fair to good; rains needed for fall range; abundant supply of hay; live stock doing well.

Wyoming.—Continued dry weather injurious to range in southeastern and central areas; range fair to good elsewhere; hay crop fair; a few thin cattle in dry sections.

LOCAL CONDITIONS AS REPORTED BY STOCKMEN

California

Cattle have done well this year, but prices have been lower than in 1931. Live stock will be in good shape to go into the winter, due to abundance of old feed. If we have rains this fall, we shall have plenty of new feed also.—THOMAS J. SHAW, Kneeland.

New Mexico

Condition of range is good over most of this section of the country. We have had good rains lately. Prices of cattle and lambs, however, are no better than last year.—WILLARD C. BATES, Carlsbad.

THE SPICE-BOX

Playing a Long Shot.—A bookmaker, who was ill, sent his small son to tell a certain doctor to call. A different physician having arrived, the bookmaker afterward asked his son to explain.

"Well, you see, dad," he said, "there were a lot of brass plates on the doors, and when I got to the number you gave me I saw 'Consultations, 11 to 12.' The chap next door was offering 'Consultations, 10 to 1;' so I knew you'd like the one that gave you the best odds."—Ireland's Own.

Fly High, Fly Low.—Liza—"Dey says dat young niggah, Exodus Johnsing, done got a terrible position wiv de army."

Mandy—"Is dat so? What sort ob er position is it?"

Liza—"Why, dey says he's done attached to a flyin' corpse."—Exchange.

Not Yet.—"Did you notice that pile of wood in the yard?"

"Yes'm. I seen it."

"You should mind your grammar. You mean you saw it."

"No'm. You saw me see it, but you ain't seen me saw it."—Exchange.

Plain Logic.—A Scotsman, upon entering a saddler's, asked for a single spur.

"What use is one spur?" asked the man.

"Well," replied Sandy, "if I can get one side of the horse to go, the other one will hae to come wi' it."—Port Arthur News-Chronicle.

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